



WONDER WOMAN

CONTAGION

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WONDER WOMAN

❧ CONTAGION ❧



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CONTAGION

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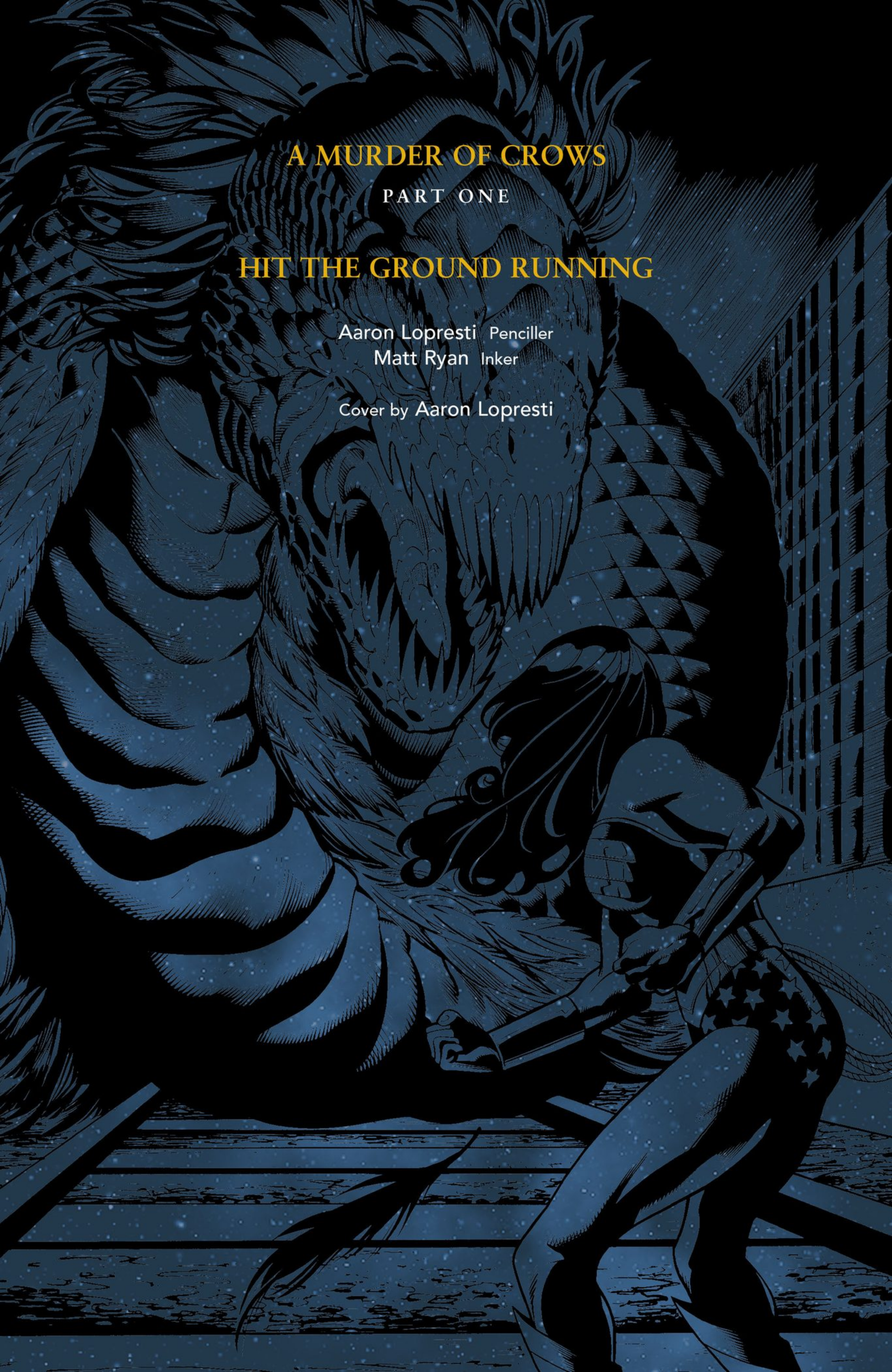
WONDER WOMAN:
CONTAGION

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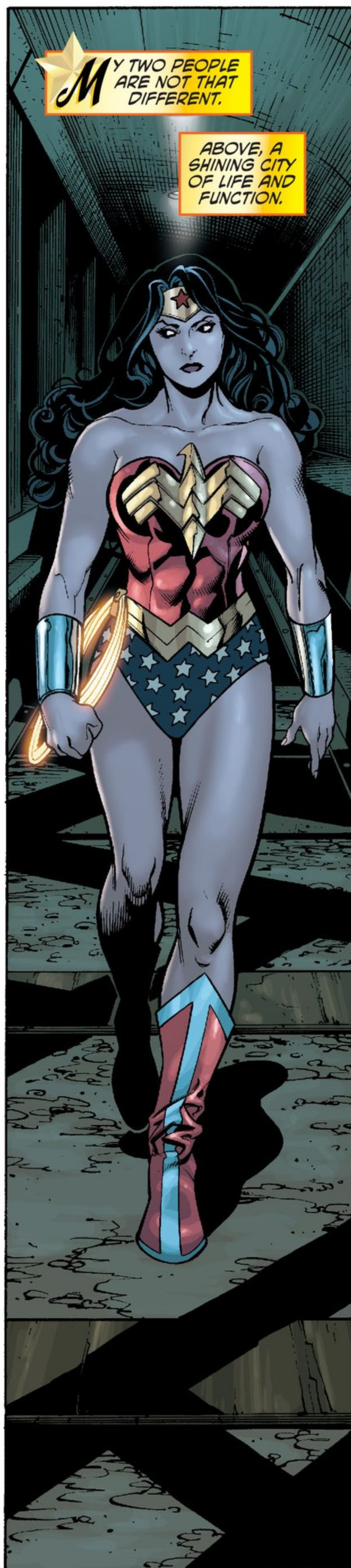
A MURDER OF CROWS

PART ONE

HIT THE GROUND RUNNING

Aaron Lopresti Penciller
Matt Ryan Inker

Cover by Aaron Lopresti

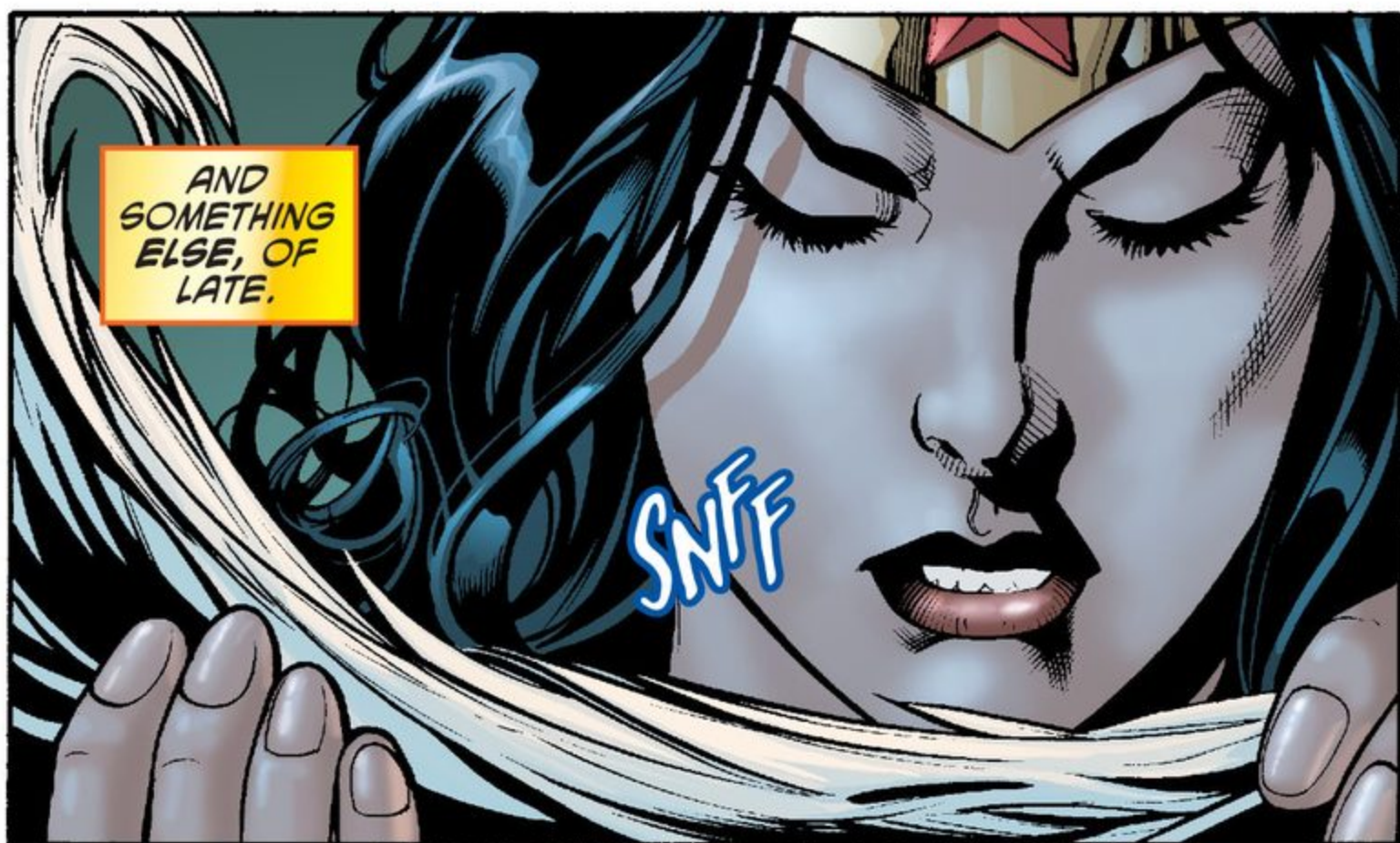


MY TWO PEOPLE ARE NOT THAT DIFFERENT.

ABOVE, A SHINING CITY OF LIFE AND FUNCTION.



WHILE ANOTHER WORLD OF TUNNELS AND ALCOVES EXISTS IN THE UNDERWORLD, MAKING PERFECT HOMES FOR VERMIN AND THE FORGOTTEN.



AND SOMETHING ELSE, OF LATE.

SNFF



THIRTY MINUTES AGO, SOMETHING DEVOURED AN ENTIRE METRO SUBWAY TRAIN IN THIS EXACT TUNNEL.



AND IT LOOKS LIKE WHATEVER HAD THAT MEAL HAS COME BACK.

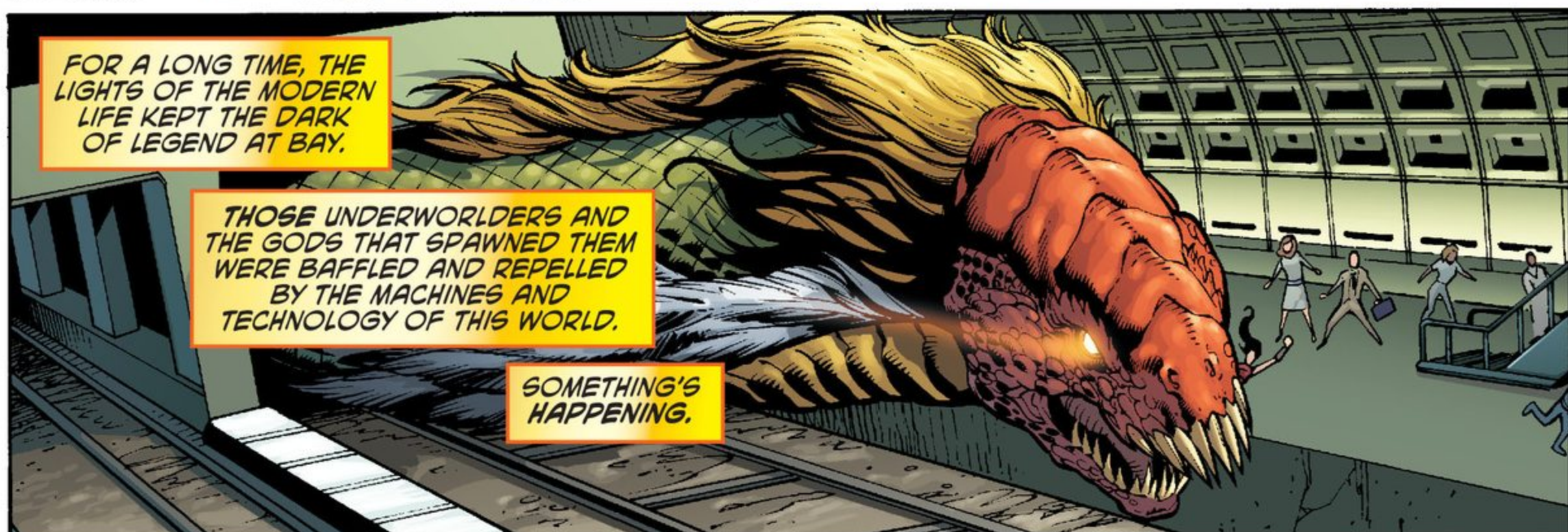


TO FEED
AGAIN.



SERPENTS.

THEY NEVER
LEARN ABOUT
PORTION
CONTROL.



FOR A LONG TIME, THE
LIGHTS OF THE MODERN
LIFE KEPT THE DARK
OF LEGEND AT BAY.

THOSE UNDERWORLDERS AND
THE GODS THAT SPAWNED THEM
WERE BAFFLED AND REPELLED
BY THE MACHINES AND
TECHNOLOGY OF THIS WORLD.

SOMETHING'S
HAPPENING.



A TINY
MORSSSEL, BUT
ONE I CONSSSUME
WITH ENTHUSSSIASSM,
PRINCESS OF
PREY.

REALLY.

HOW
FLATTERING.



AND OF COURSE,
A METRO TRAIN
IS COMING
RIGHT FOR US.

PERHAPS THE PLUMED
SERPENT HAS BARBECUE
FOR ITS SUPPER.

HOOONNKK

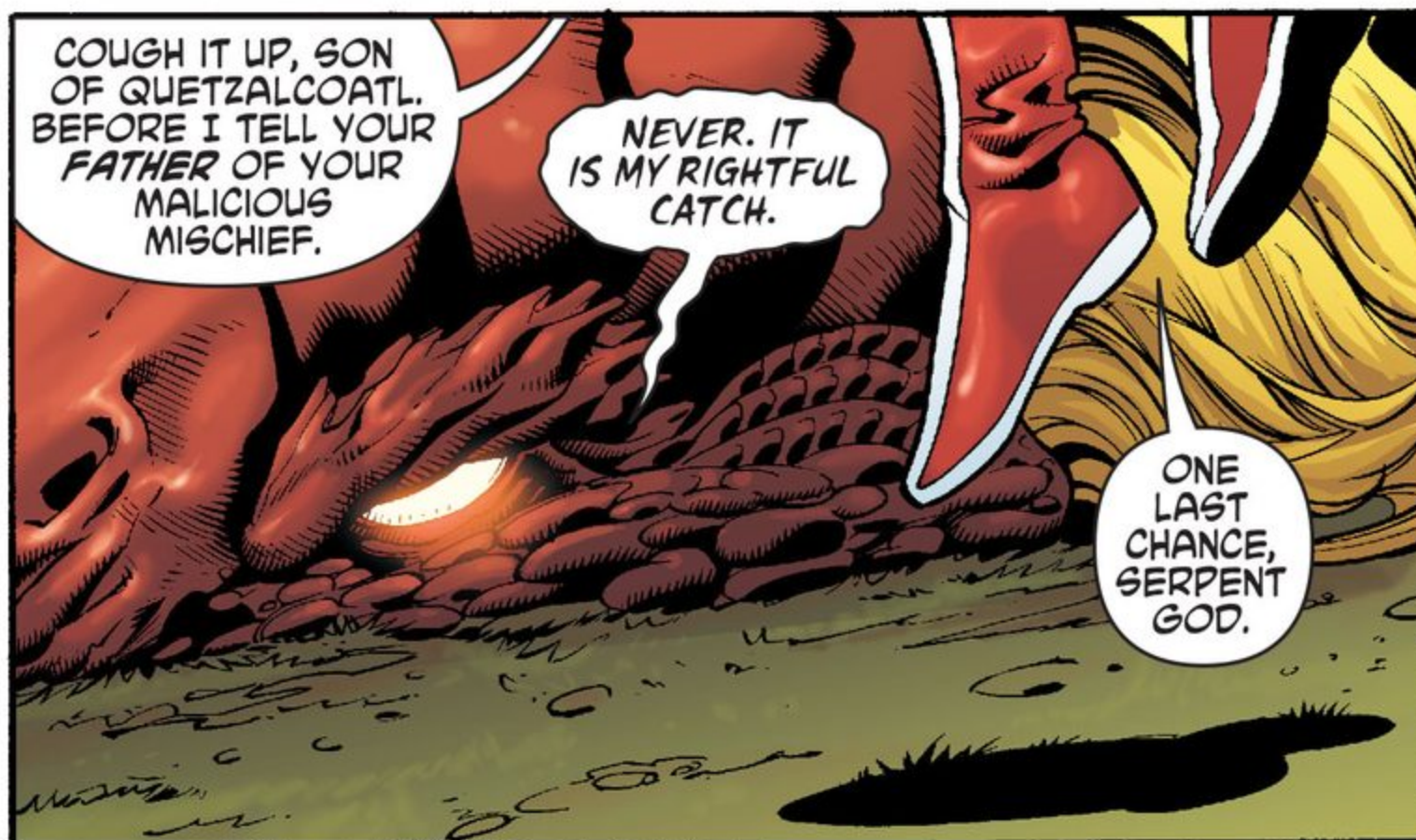


KRACKK

THEN
AGAIN...

... PERHAPS
NOT.





COUGH IT UP, SON OF QUETZALCOATL. BEFORE I TELL YOUR FATHER OF YOUR MALICIOUS MISCHIEF.

NEVER. IT IS MY RIGHTFUL CATCH.

ONE LAST CHANCE, SERPENT GOD.



OR ELSE I'LL TAKE THE REST OF YOUR TEETH AND YOU CAN GUM YOUR MEALS FOR THE NEXT FEW CENTURIES, AND THEN... AND THEN, SNAKE LORD...

... THEN I'LL START TAKING THINGS FROM YOU THAT YOU'LL REALLY MISS.

CURSE YOU, YOU AND ALL YOUR KIND.



AKCKCKCKCK...

EXCUSE ME.

I KNOW THIS GOD. HE HAS NEVER BEEN... A CONSUMER OF HUMAN FLESH BEFORE. HE'D RATHER GET PRAISE FROM PEOPLE THAN BE SATIED BY THEM.

WHY IS HE HERE?



NO ONE SEEMS BADLY INJURED, BLESS THE GODS.

IS EVERYONE ALL RIGHT?

YOU'RE SAFE NOW, EVERYONE. PLEASE EXIT CAREFULLY.



PRINCESS... WONDER WOMAN... I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO CALL YOU.

DIANA IS FINE, SISTER.

WATCH YOUR STEP, PLEASE.

MY CHILDREN WANTED TO THANK YOU.

WE GOT EATEN BY A SNAKE!

SUCH A GLORIOUS
PHENOMENON.





BE WARY,
PRINCESS.

EVEN NOW,
YOUR CITY
SSMELLSS LIKE
A SSLAUGHTER-
HOUSSE.

9 FIND WHEN A
SERPENT GOD
BOTHERS TO
GIVE YOU A WARNING
LIKE THAT...

...IT IS ONLY
PRUDENT
TO TAKE
HEED.



HM.
NOTHING
FOR IT, I
SUPPOSE.

UNFORTUNATELY,
FIRST...

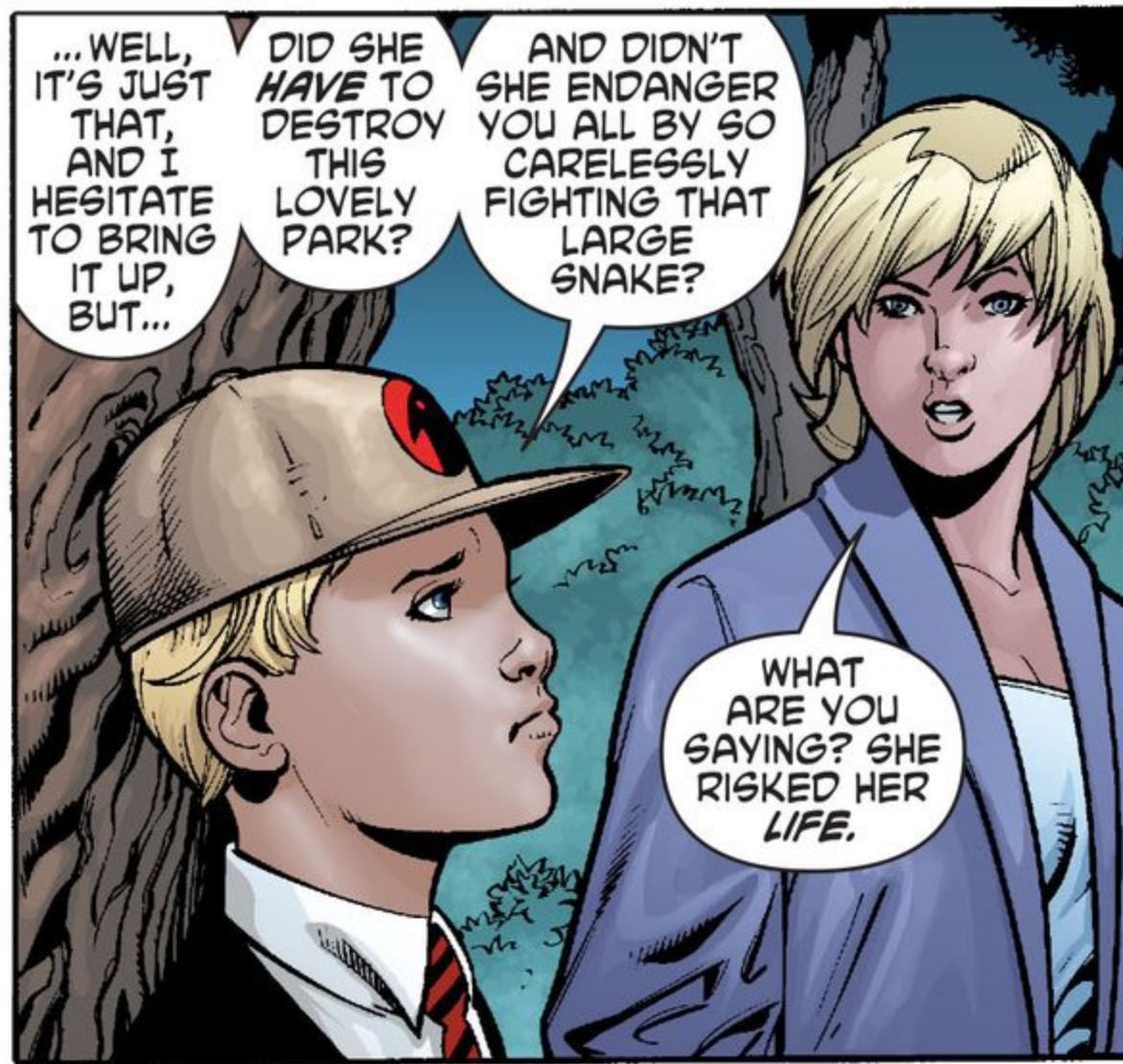
...I SUPPOSE
IT'S LEFT TO
ME TO DO
THE DISHES.



I'M EVER
SO PLEASED
THAT YOU ARE
SAFE FROM THAT
HORRIBLE
CREATURE.

WONDER
WOMAN SAVED
US.

SHE
CERTAINLY
DID, ONLY...



...WELL,
IT'S JUST
THAT,
AND I
HESITATE
TO BRING
IT UP,
BUT...

DID SHE
HAVE TO
DESTROY
THIS
LOVELY
PARK?

AND DIDN'T
SHE ENDANGER
YOU ALL BY SO
CARELESSLY
FIGHTING THAT
LARGE
SNAKE?

WHAT
ARE YOU
SAYING? SHE
RISKED HER
LIFE.



YES, SHE
DID, AND BLESS
HER FOR THAT
SELFLESS ACT.
STILL...

...MAYBE
SHE ONLY WANTS
THE GLORY?

I WONDER. SHE
SEEMED AWFULLY
CHUMMY WITH THE
SNAKE JUST
NOW.

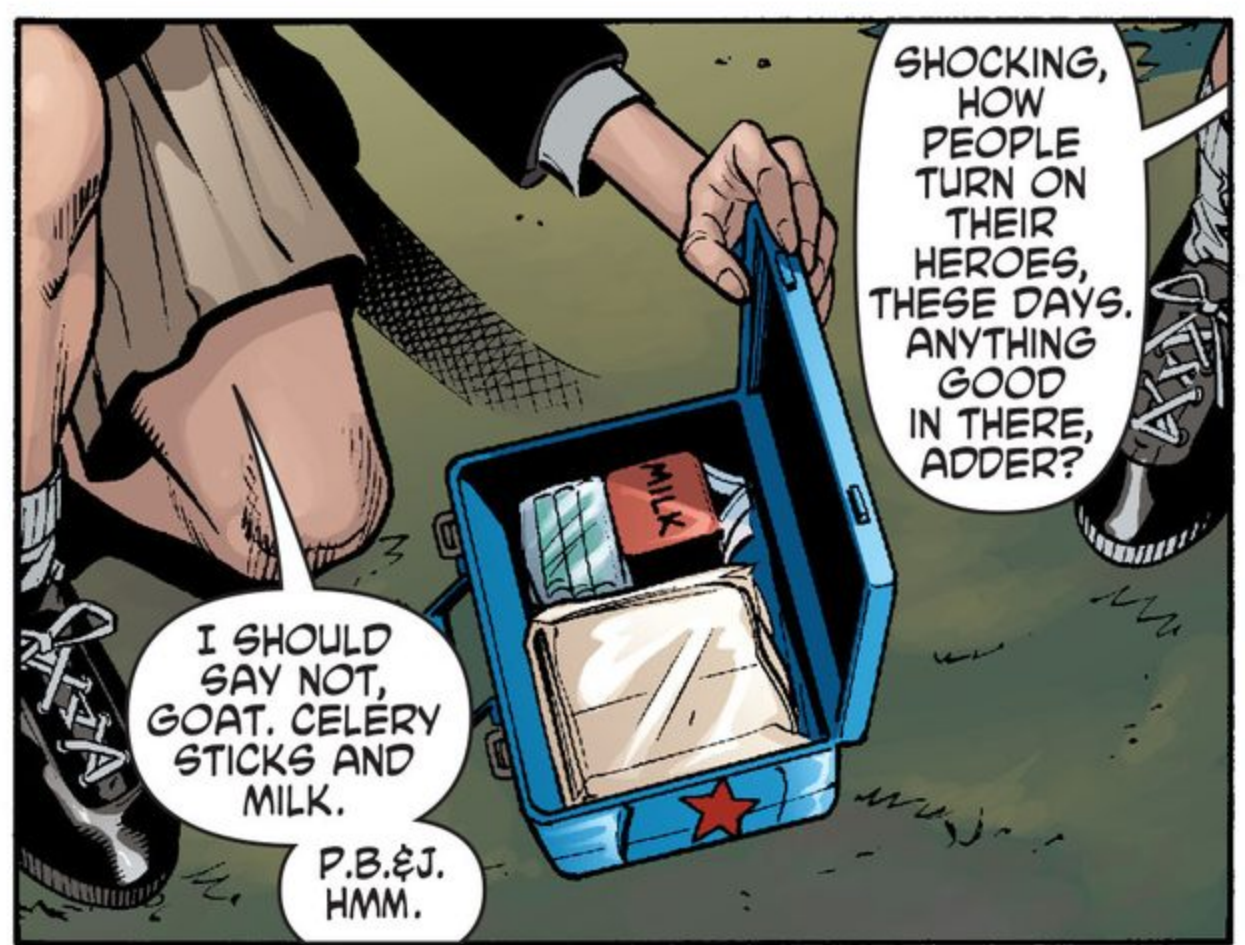
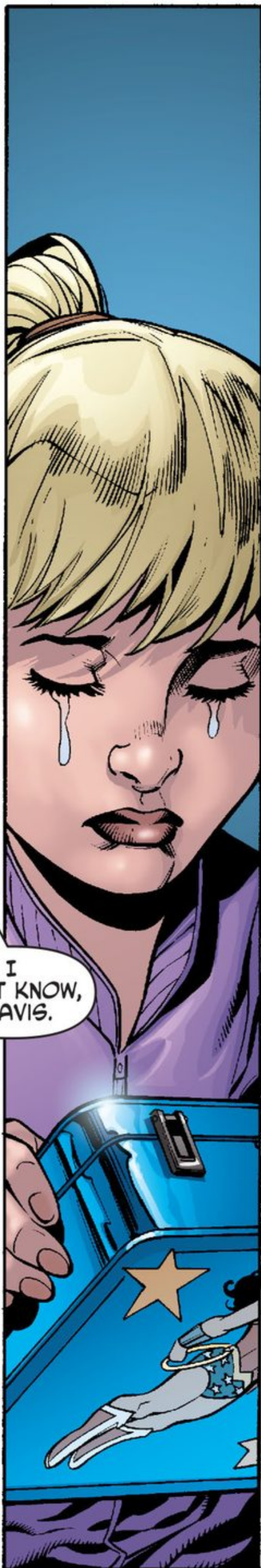
OH, YES,
EVER SO
CHUMMY!



YOU DON'T SUPPOSE,
I MEAN, YOU DON'T THINK
THEY COULD HAVE CONSPIRED
TO DO THIS? FOR THE
ATTENTION,
I MEAN?

HEAVENS,
WHAT A
HORRENDOUS
THOUGHT!

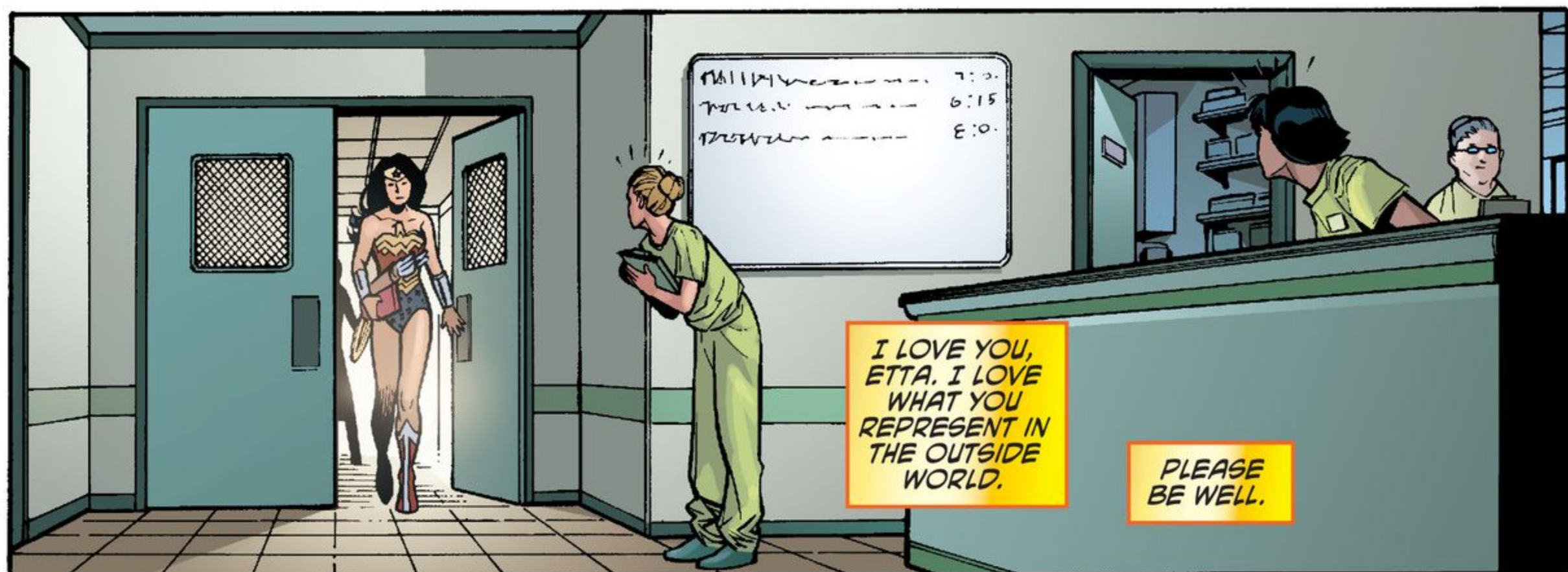
NOT DIANA!
NEVER DIANA!





MY FRIEND. MY NON-AMAZON SISTER.

HERE BECAUSE OF HER CONNECTION TO ME.



I LOVE YOU, ETTA. I LOVE WHAT YOU REPRESENT IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

PLEASE BE WELL.

I MISSED YOU TERRIBLY.

CAN YOU EVER FORGIVE ME?



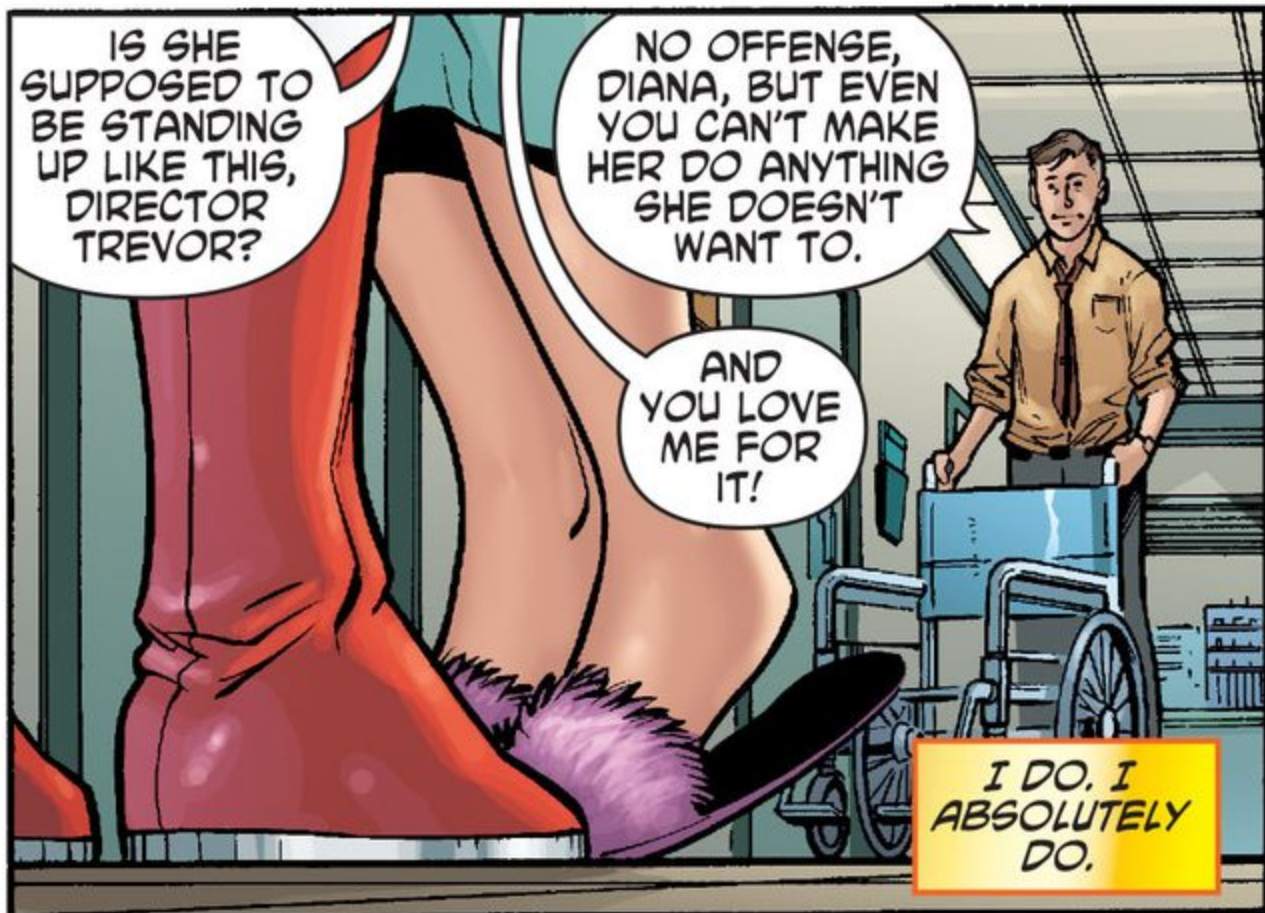
DIANA!

I MISSED YOU. YOU OKAY?

AM I OKAY.

YES.

NOW I AM.

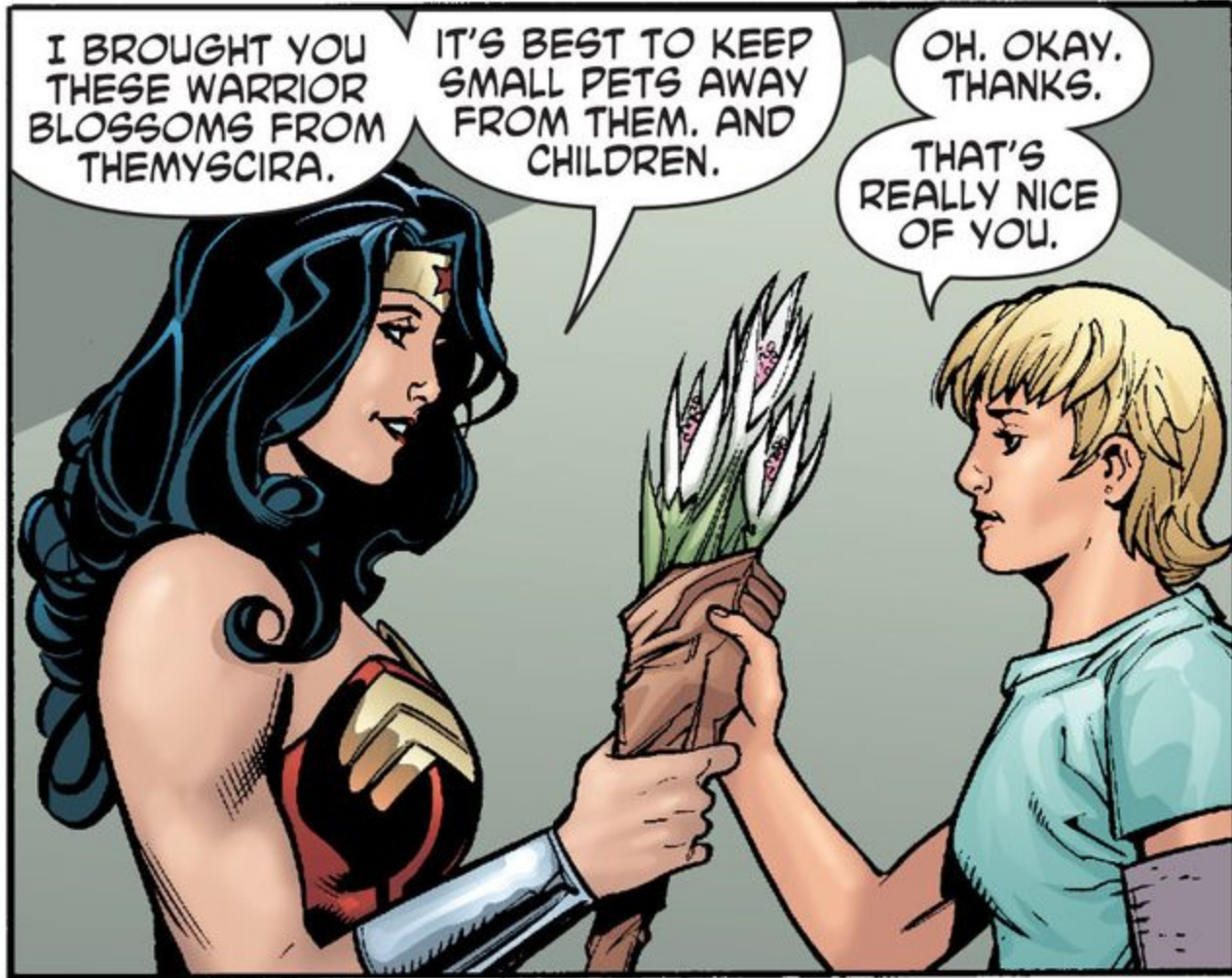


IS SHE SUPPOSED TO BE STANDING UP LIKE THIS, DIRECTOR TREVOR?

NO OFFENSE, DIANA, BUT EVEN YOU CAN'T MAKE HER DO ANYTHING SHE DOESN'T WANT TO.

AND YOU LOVE ME FOR IT!

I DO. I ABSOLUTELY DO.

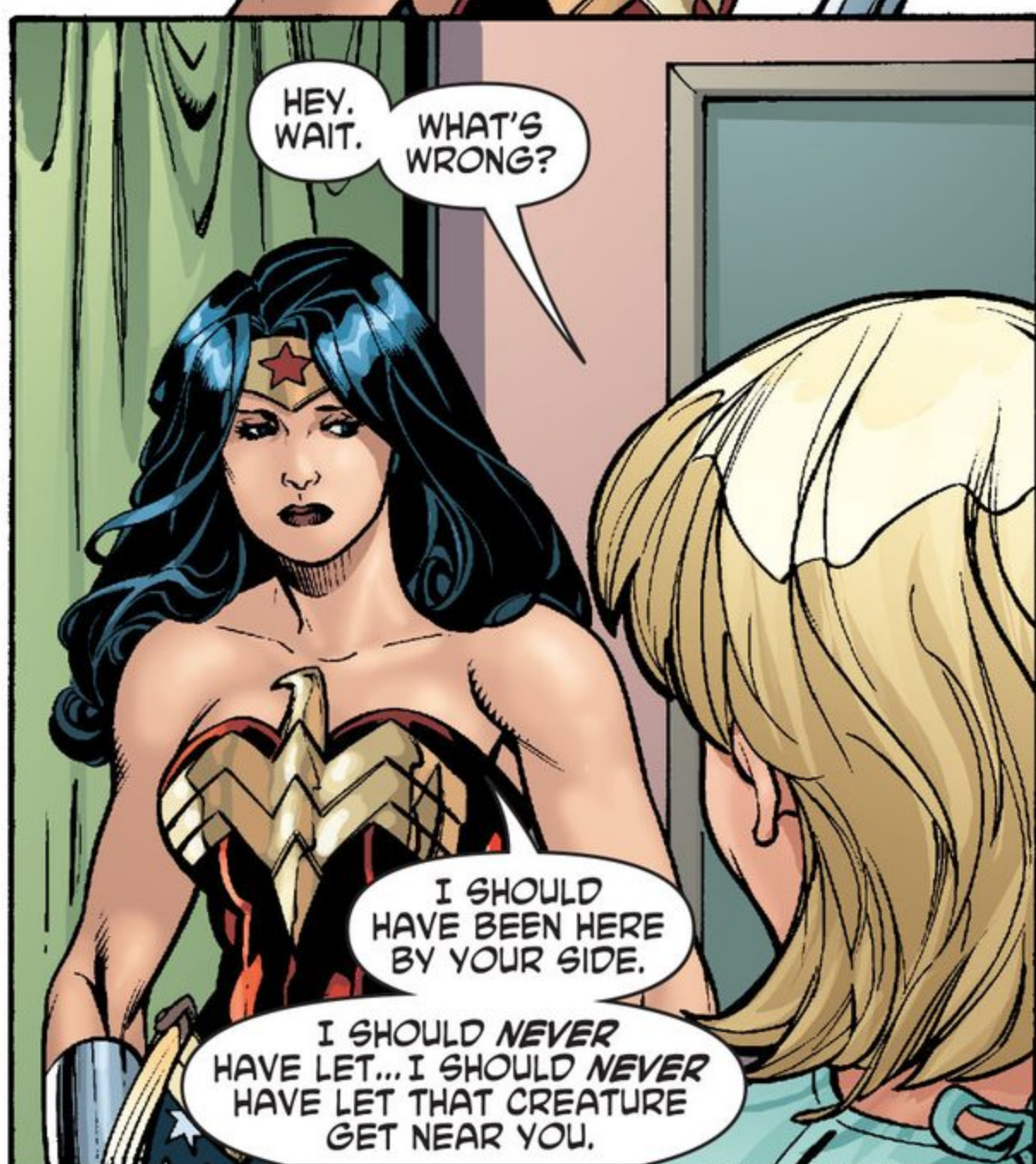
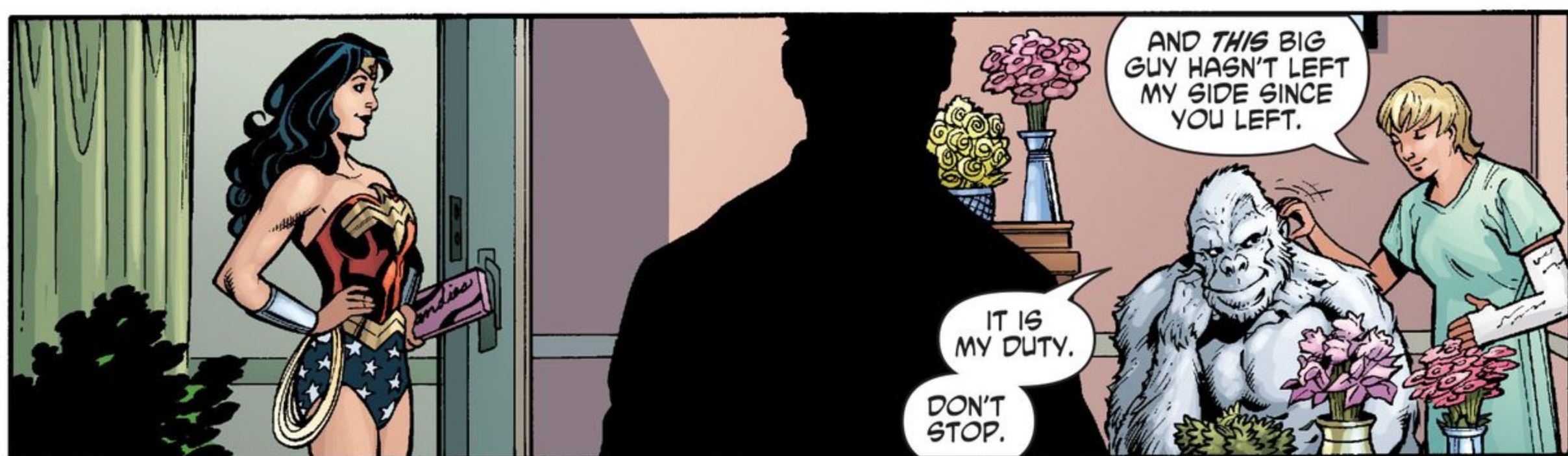
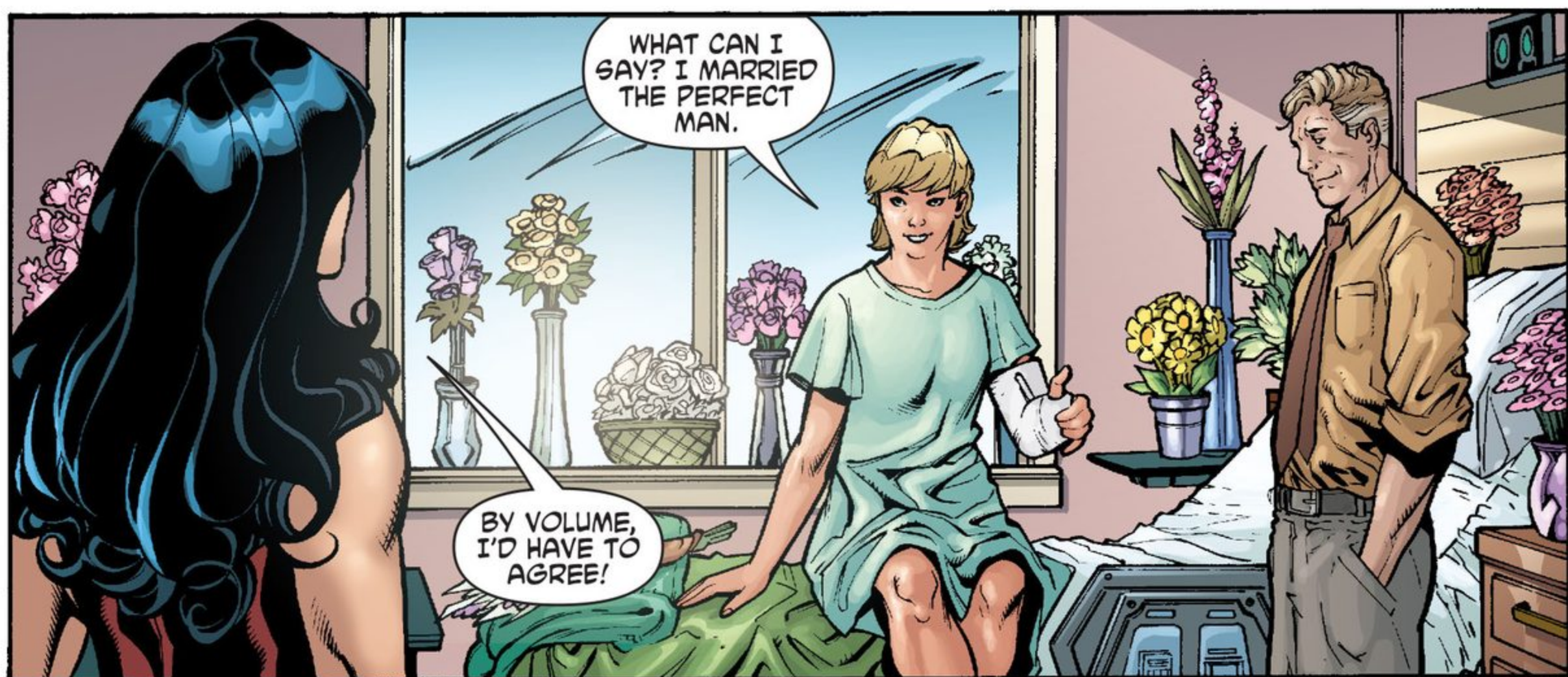


I BROUGHT YOU THESE WARRIOR BLOSSOMS FROM THEMYSKIRA.

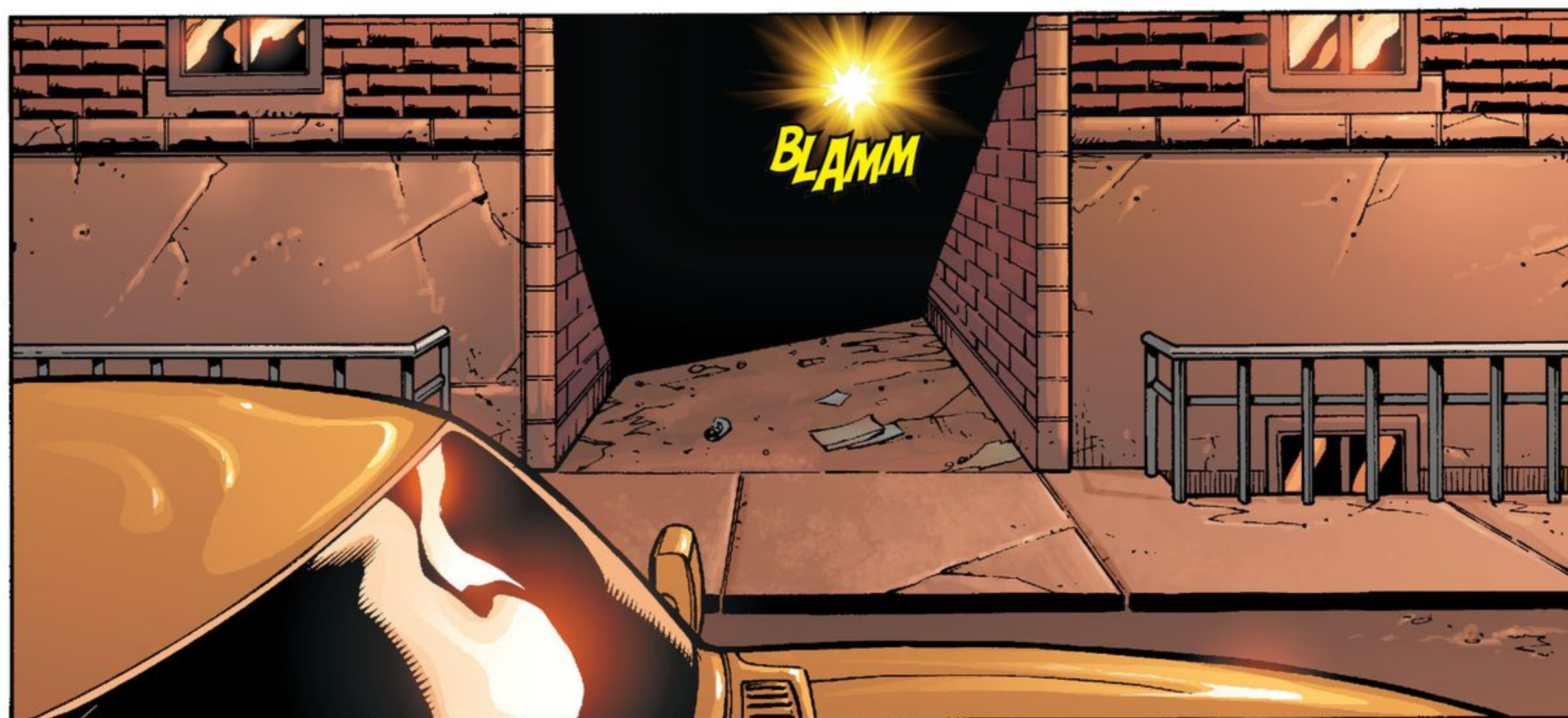
IT'S BEST TO KEEP SMALL PETS AWAY FROM THEM. AND CHILDREN.

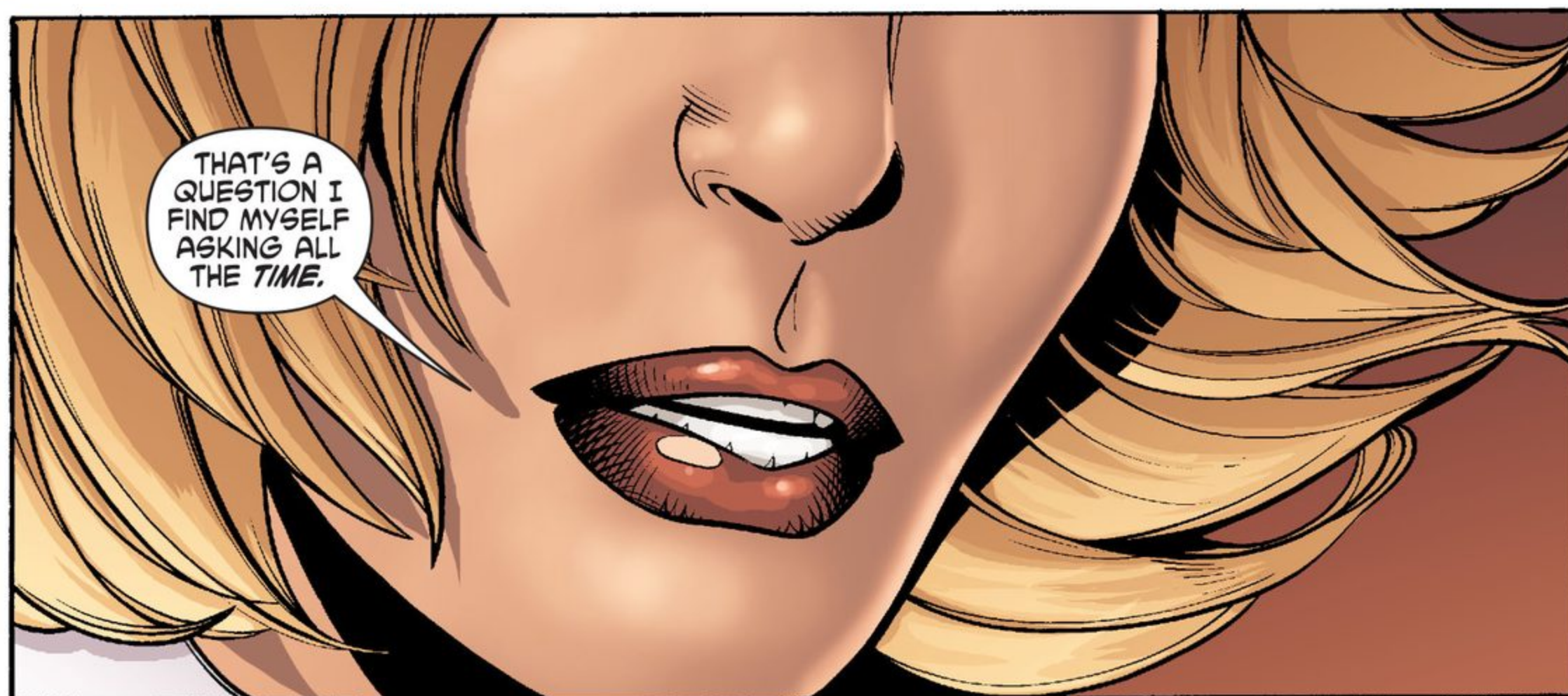
OH. OKAY. THANKS.

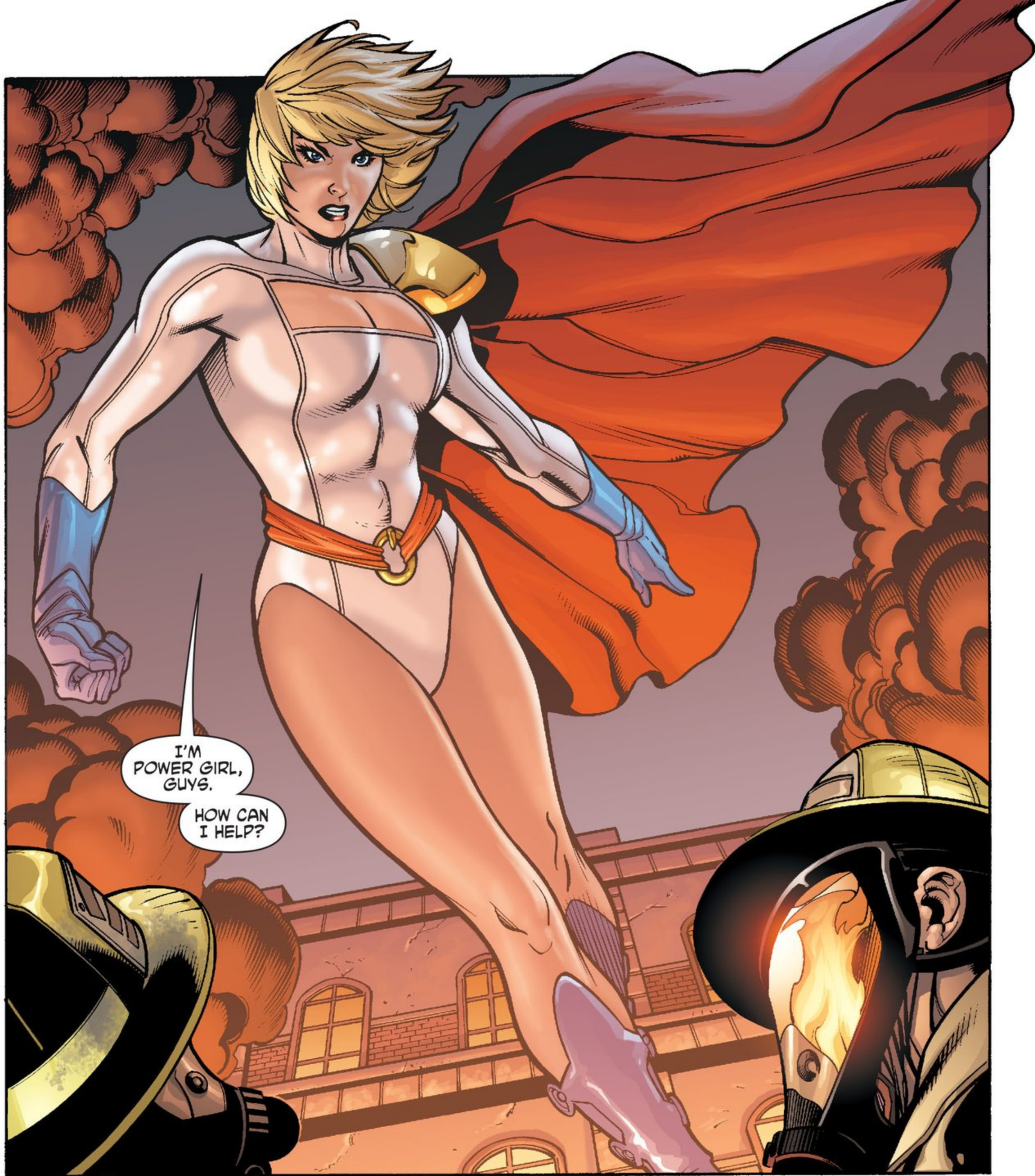
THAT'S REALLY NICE OF YOU.











I'VE BEEN A CHECKMATE OPERATIVE UNDER U.N. AUTHORITY FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS.

MY JOB WAS TO OBSERVE ANOMALIES IN THE DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS OF THE D.M.A. AND REPORT BACK TO HEADQUARTERS IN THE SWISS ALPS.

ETTA OLIVE CANDY
OPERATIVE LEVEL:
KNIGHT
SPECIAL LIAISON
SECURITY COLOR:
WHITESIDE



HOLD ON.
WAIT.
WHAT?

"RECRUITED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, BY GREEN LANTERN AND MR. TERRIFIC THEMSELVES.

"THEY HAVE OPERATIVES EVERYWHERE, DIANA. 'PAWNS,' THEY CALL THEM.

YOUR WORK WITH THE USAF IS IMPORTANT, MISS CANDY. WE RECOGNIZE THAT.

BUT WE'RE OFFERING YOU A CHANCE TO CHANGE THE WORLD.

"YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND. I WAS PROUD TO BE AIR FORCE."

BUT WHEN YOUR HUSBAND IS THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, AND YOUR BEST FRIEND IS AN AMAZON WARRIOR PRINCESS, WELL...

...IT CAN MAKE YOU FEEL A LITTLE INADEQUATE, YOU KNOW?

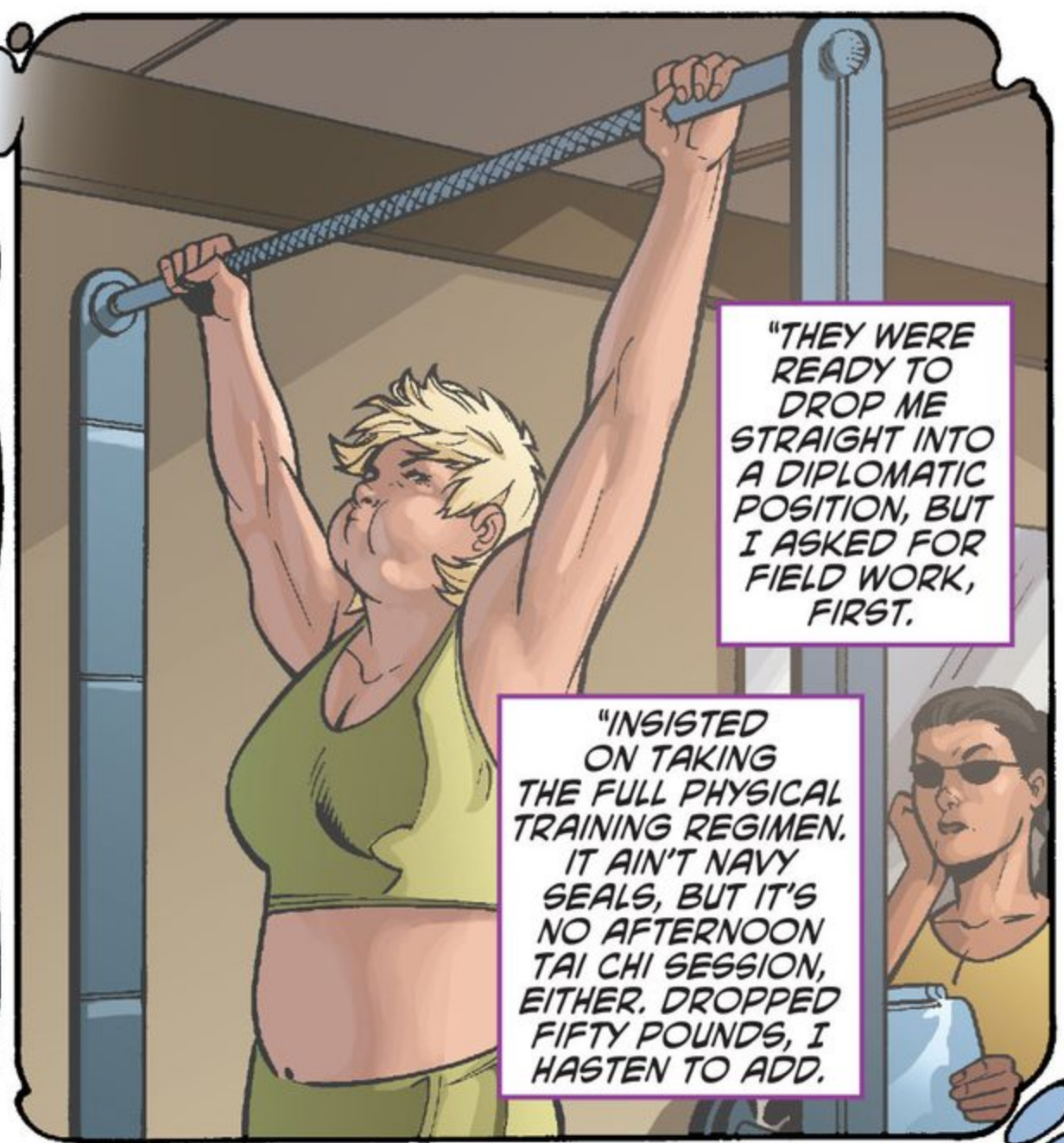
SWEETHEART--

I'M NOT BLAMING ANYONE, STEVE.



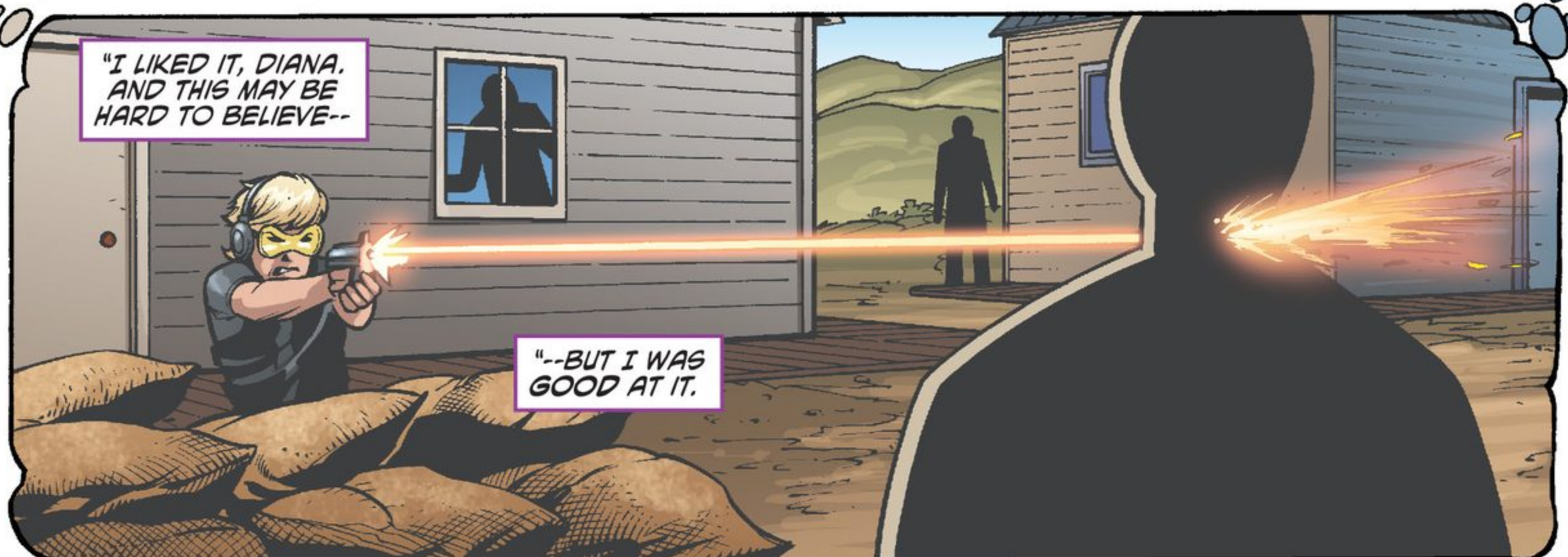
"BUT WHEN THEY OFFERED ME A CHANCE TO BE IMPORTANT... A CHANCE TO MATTER..."

"...I PUT AWAY THE PERSON I HAD BECOME AND TOOK IT."



"THEY WERE READY TO DROP ME STRAIGHT INTO A DIPLOMATIC POSITION, BUT I ASKED FOR FIELD WORK, FIRST."

"INSISTED ON TAKING THE FULL PHYSICAL TRAINING REGIMEN. IT AIN'T NAVY SEALS, BUT IT'S NO AFTERNOON TAI CHI SESSION, EITHER. DROPPED FIFTY POUNDS, I HASTEN TO ADD."



"I LIKED IT, DIANA. AND THIS MAY BE HARD TO BELIEVE--"

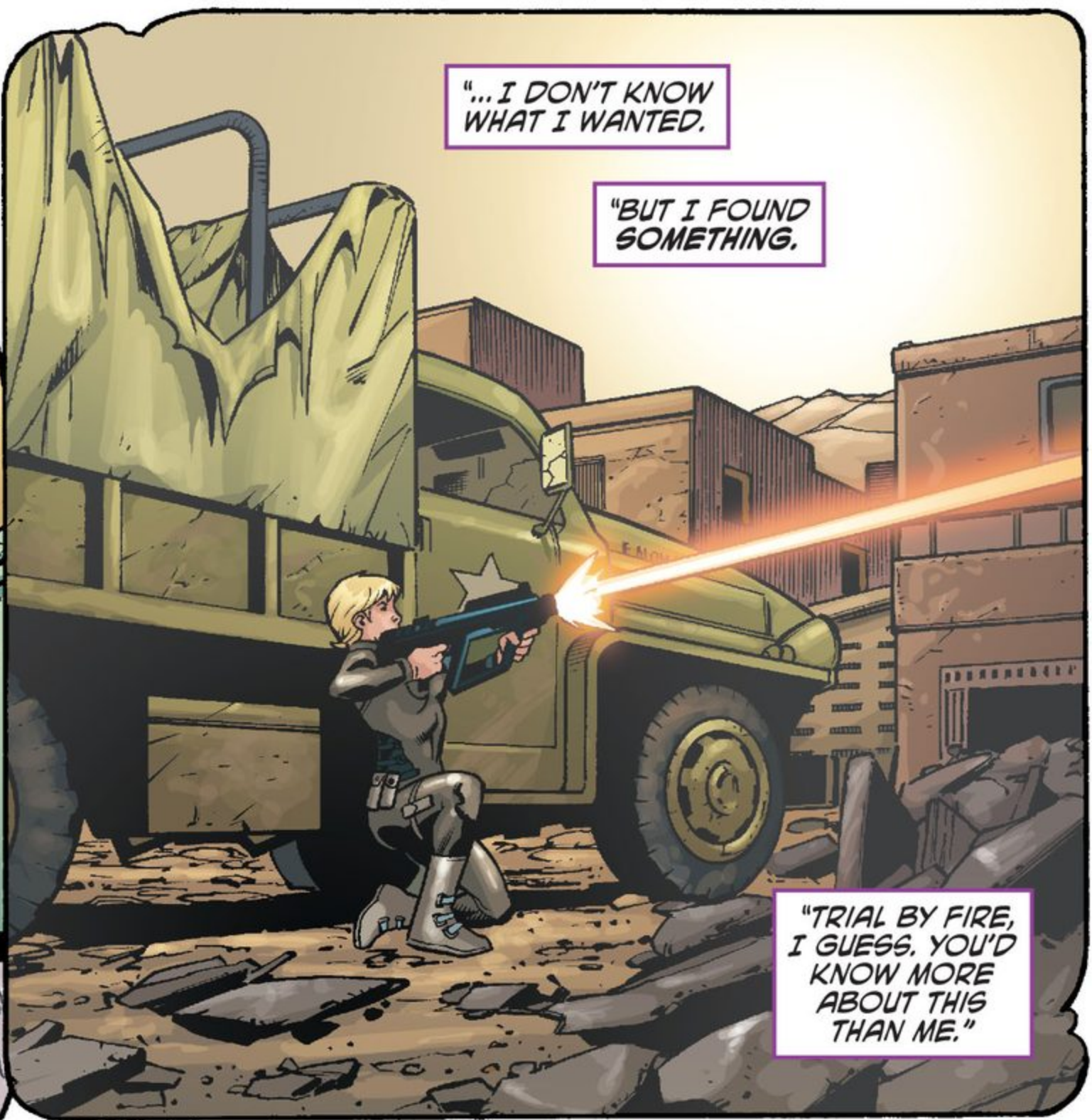
"--BUT I WAS GOOD AT IT."



I DON'T FIND THAT HARD TO BELIEVE AT ALL. I KNEW YOU WERE ALWAYS FORMIDABLE.

WELL, THAT MAKES ONE OF US.

BUT I ASKED TO BE IN THE ACTION, DIANA. I WANTED...



"...I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WANTED."

"BUT I FOUND SOMETHING."

"TRIAL BY FIRE, I GUESS. YOU'D KNOW MORE ABOUT THIS THAN ME."

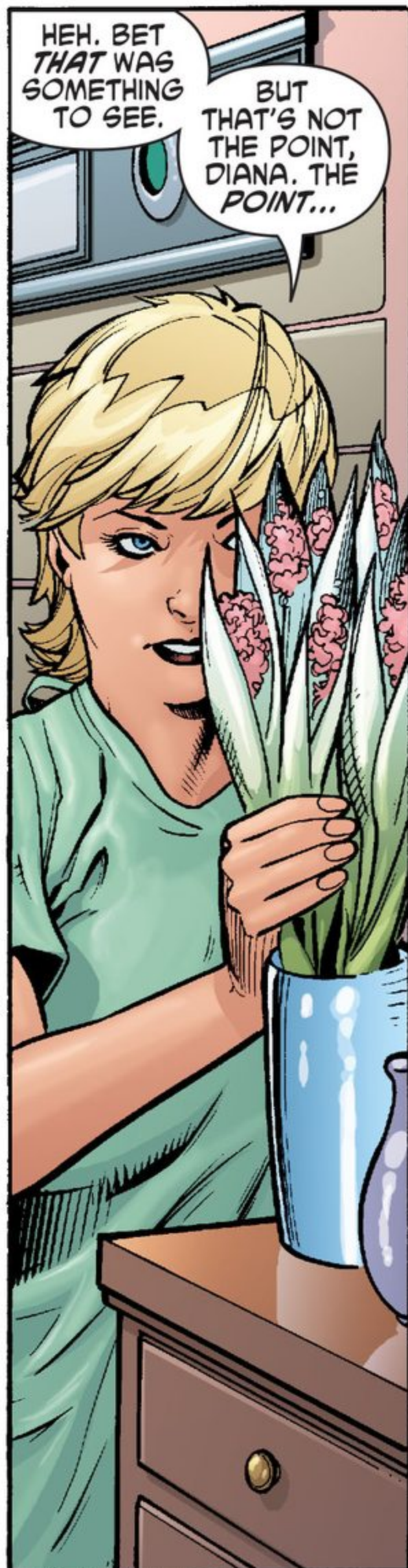
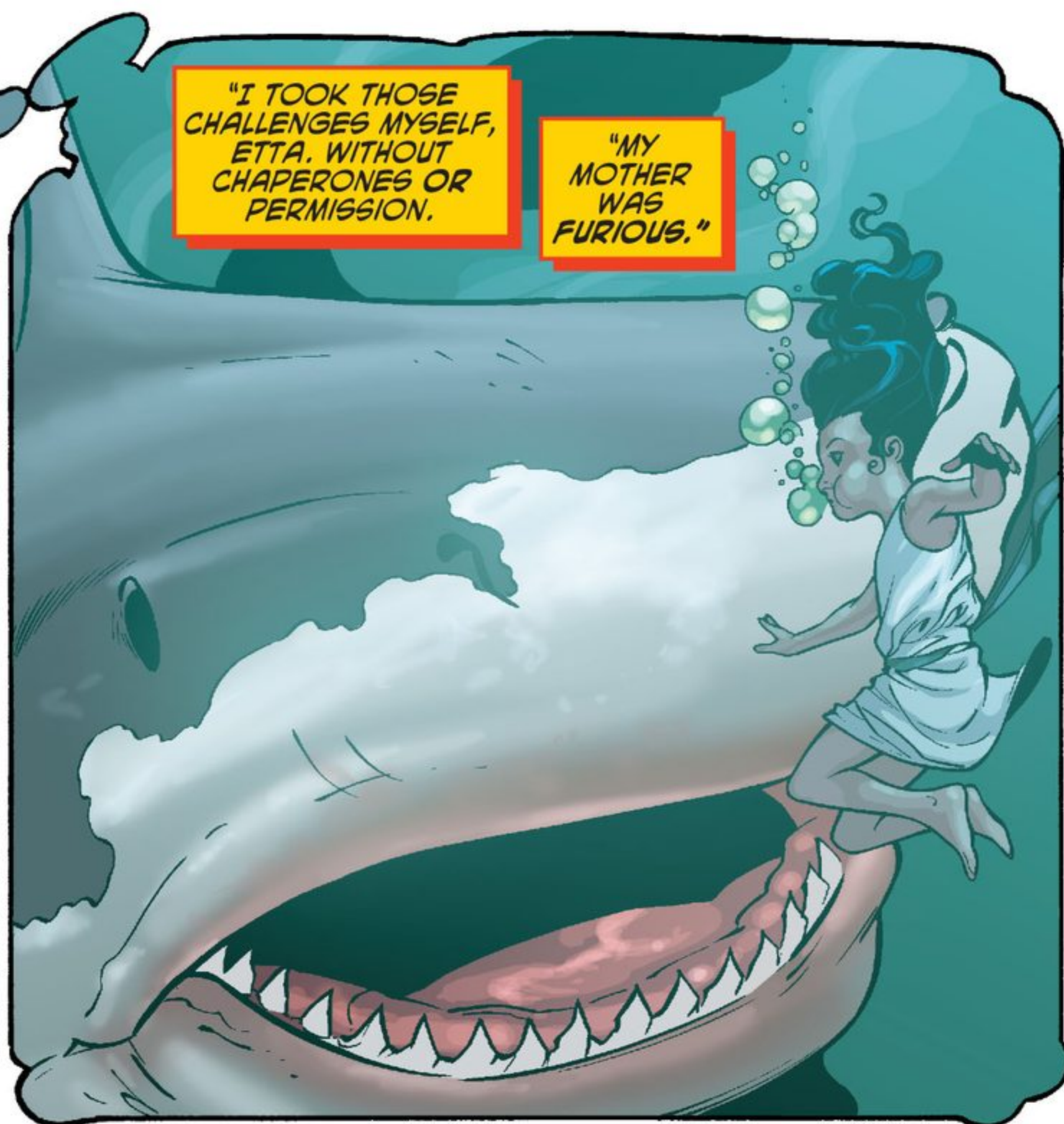
WE
AMAZONS CALL IT
"SLEEPING NEXT TO
SCORPIONS."

BY
FACING
YOUR FEAR,
YOU LEARN
TO...

...TO
CONTROL
IT. YES.
EXACTLY.

"I TOOK THOSE
CHALLENGES MYSELF,
ETTA. WITHOUT
CHAPERONES OR
PERMISSION."

"MY
MOTHER
WAS
FURIOUS."



HEH. BET
THAT WAS
SOMETHING
TO SEE.

BUT
THAT'S NOT
THE POINT,
DIANA. THE
POINT...



...IS THAT
I *ASKED* FOR
THIS LIFE. AND
I *LOVE* IT.

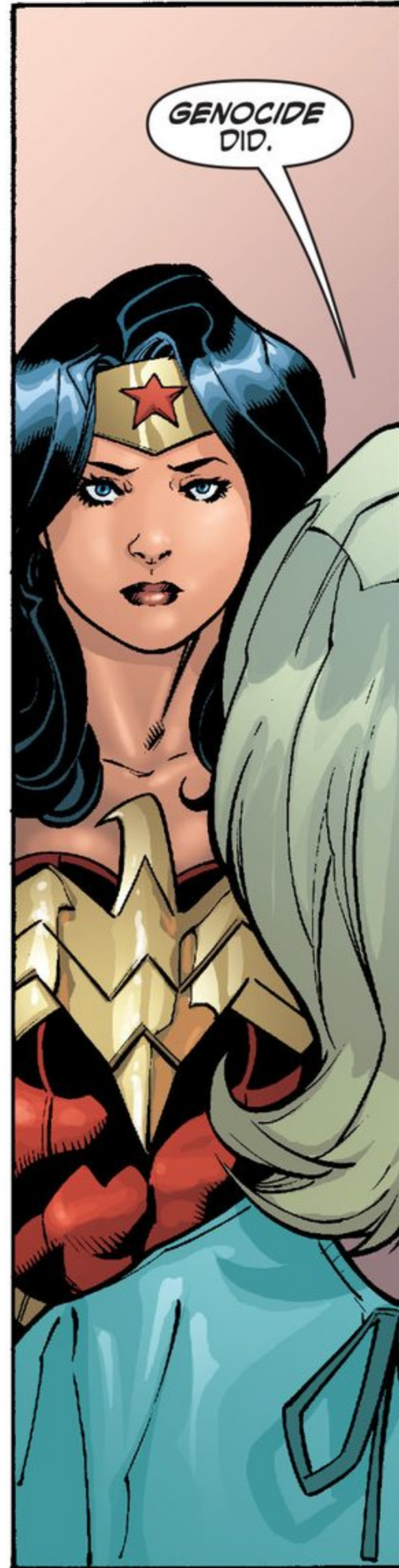
GENOCIDE
OR NO, HOSPITAL
OR NO.

IT WAS
MY DECISIONS
THAT PUT ME
HERE.

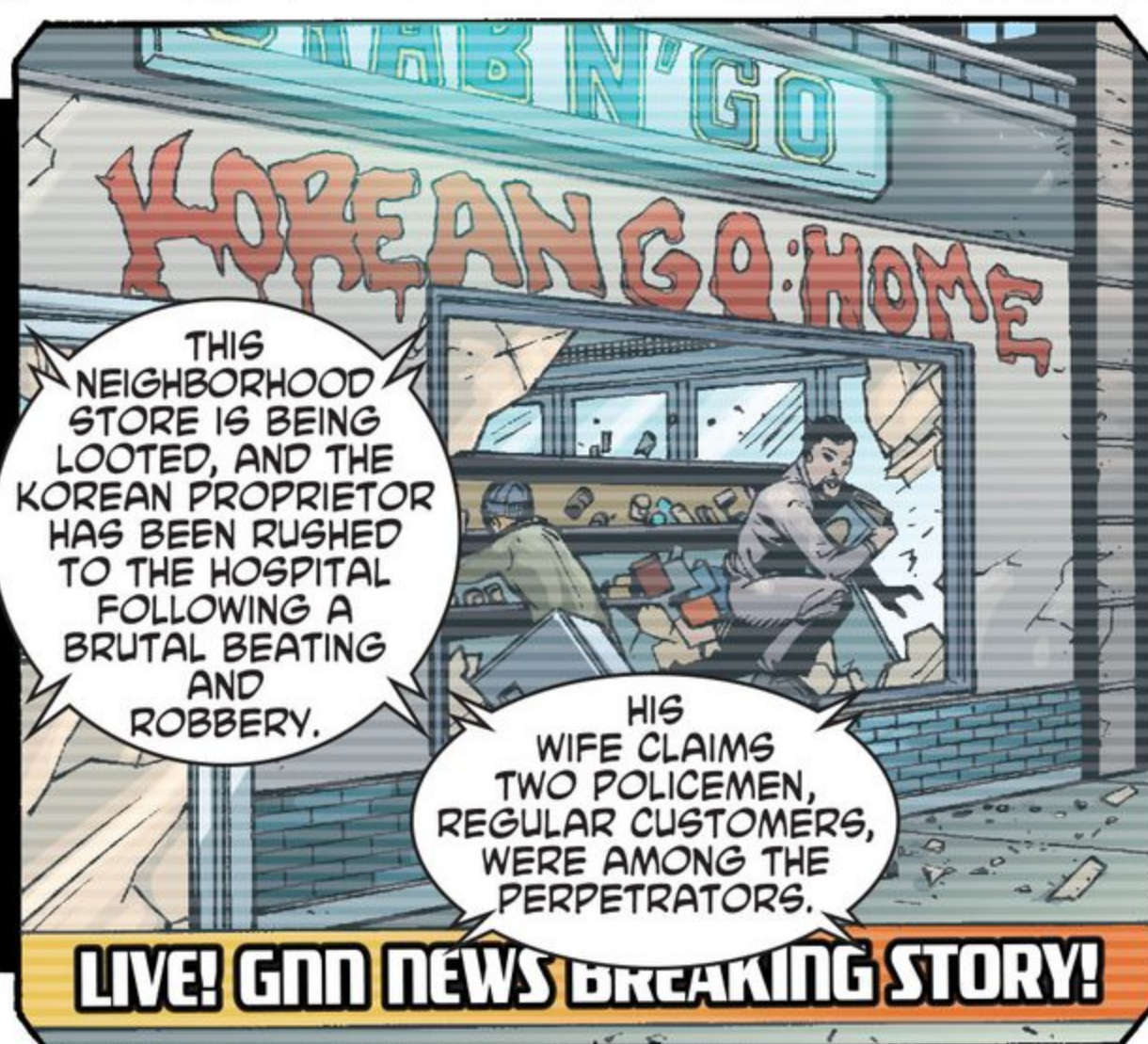
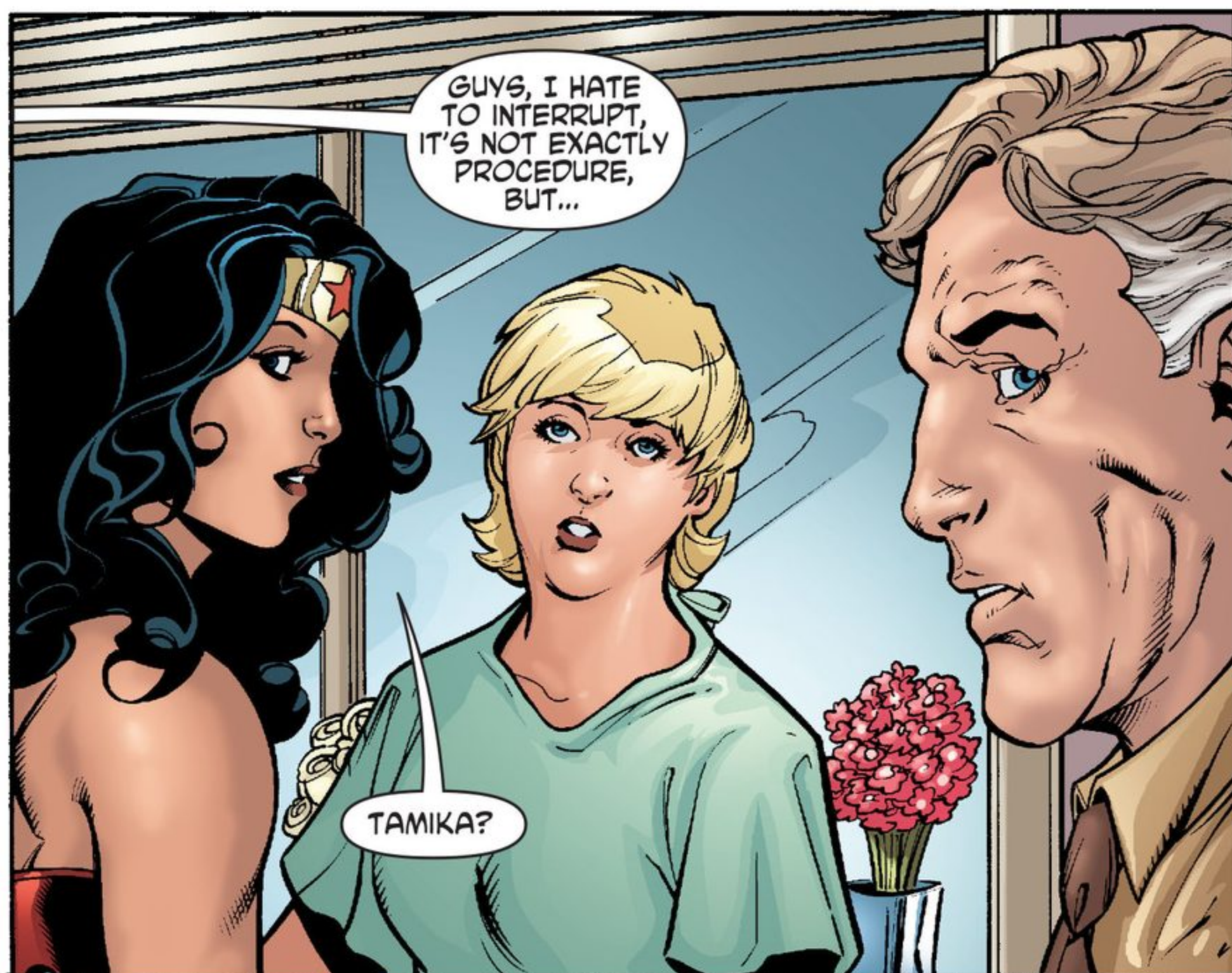
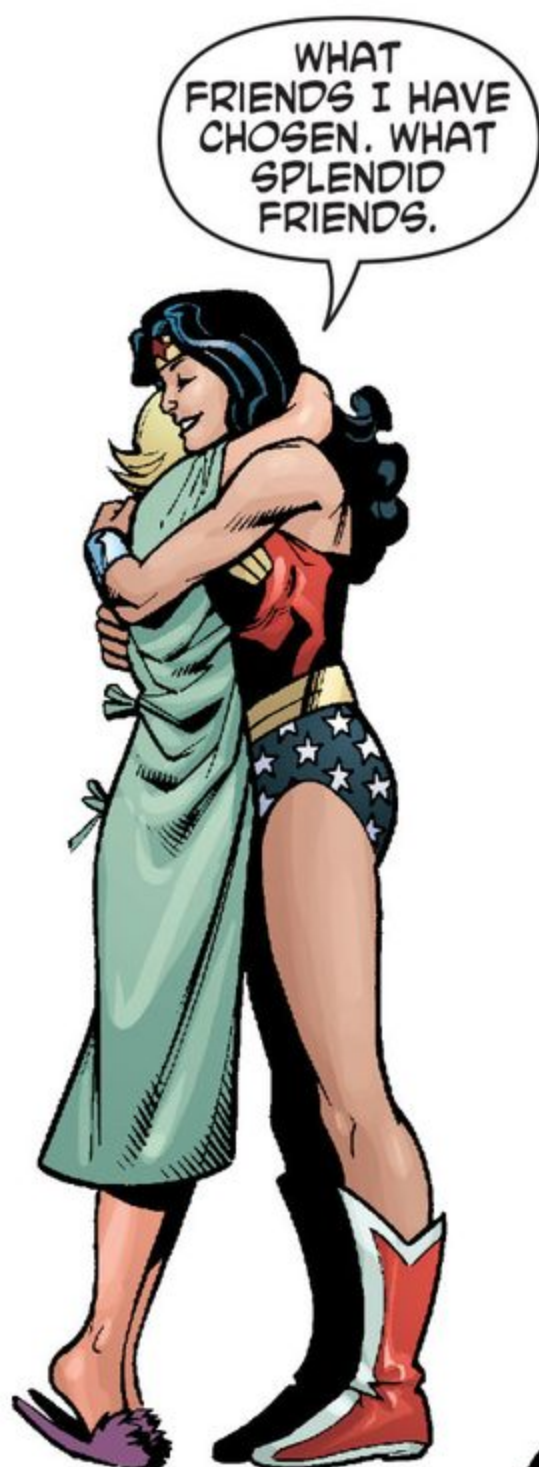


AND I'M NOT GOING TO HAVE
YOU LOOKING AT ME WITH
GUILTY, MOPEY EYES EVERY
TIME YOU LOOK AT ME.

YOU
DIDN'T DO
THIS.



GENOCIDE
DID.

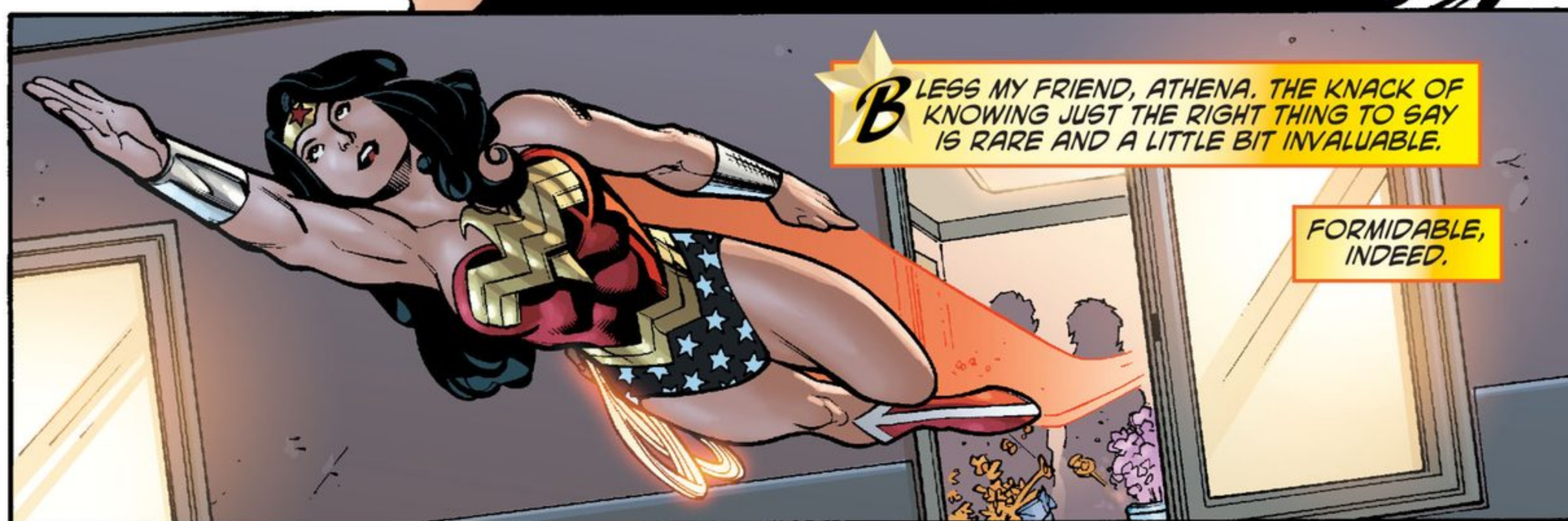




ETTA,
I HAVE
TO...

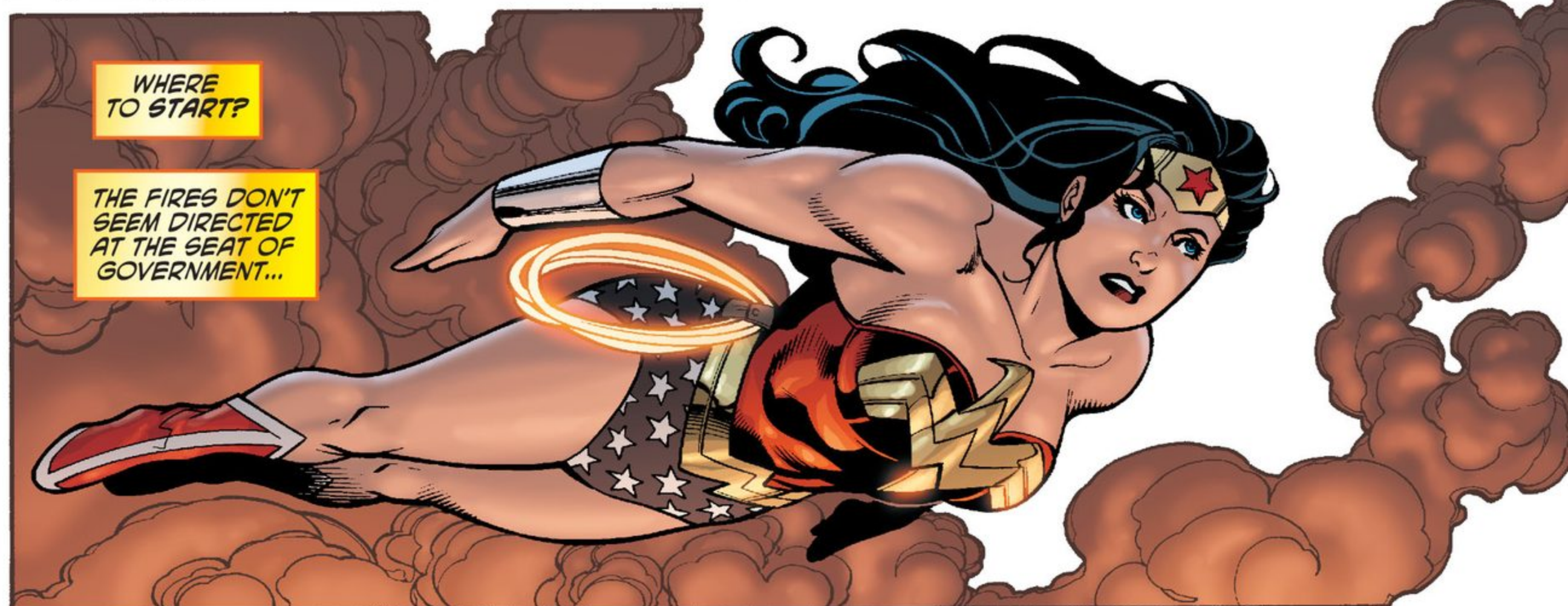
SWEETIE,
JUST GO.

YOU
WERE GIVEN ALL
THAT POWER FOR A
REASON, WEREN'T
YOU?



BLESS MY FRIEND, ATHENA. THE KNACK OF
KNOWING JUST THE RIGHT THING TO SAY
IS RARE AND A LITTLE BIT INVALUABLE.

FORMIDABLE,
INDEED.



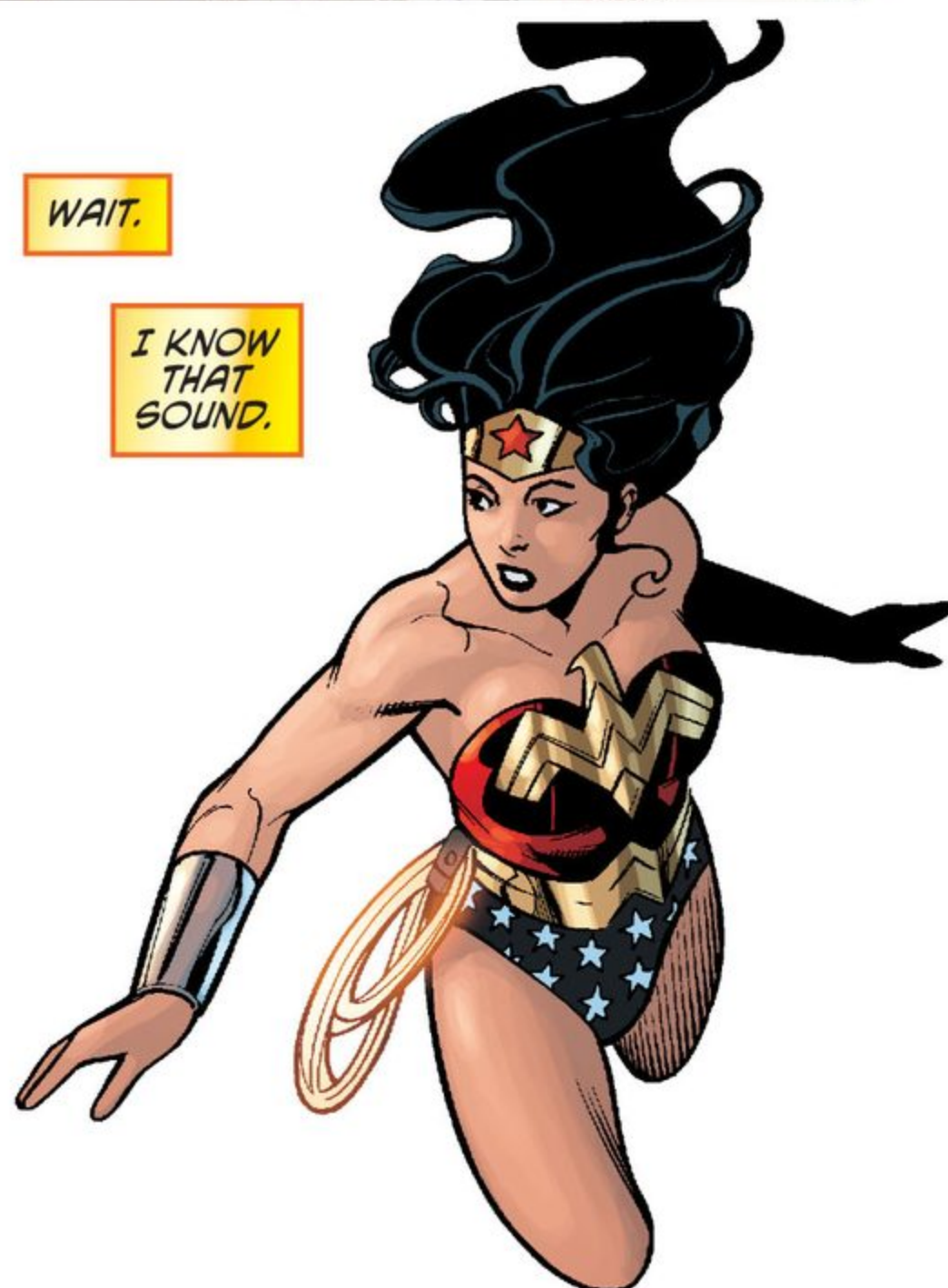
WHERE
TO START?

THE FIRES DON'T
SEEM DIRECTED
AT THE SEAT OF
GOVERNMENT...



UNLESS I'M
MISTAKEN, THE
BIGGEST FIRE
IS AT THE
CENTER OF THE
CITY ALMOST
EXACTLY.

THAT
INDICATES
PLANNING.



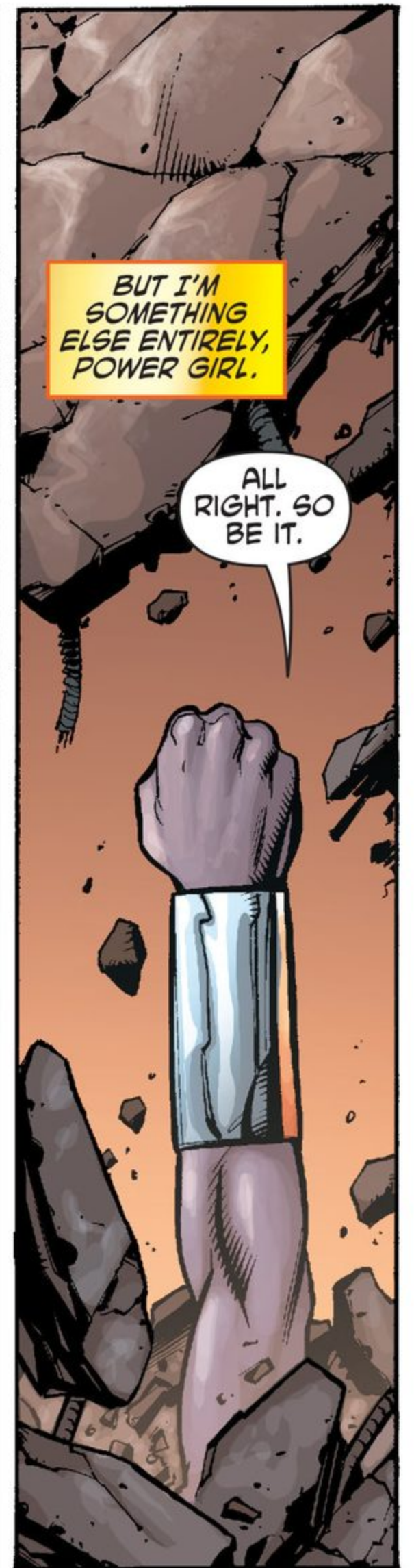
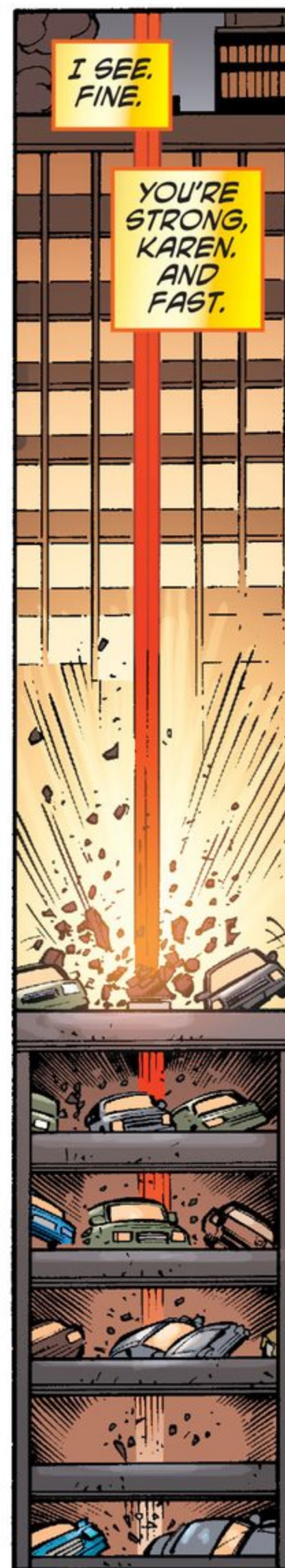
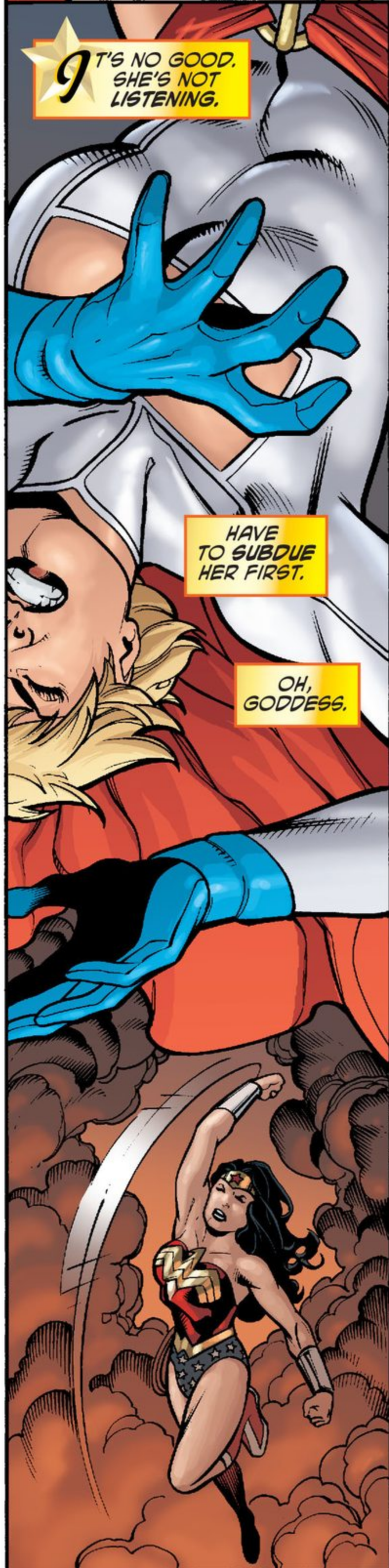
WAIT.

I KNOW
THAT
SOUND.



POWER
GIRL.





I AM
WONDER
WOMAN.

AND
YOU'VE
MANAGED
TO MAKE ME
SLIGHTLY
PEEVED.





A MURDER OF CROWS

PART TWO

THROWDOWN

Chris Batista and Fernando Dagnino Pencillers
Doug Hazlewood and Raul Fernandez Inkers

Cover by Aaron Lopresti



THALARION.

IN THE SHORT TIME SINCE
MY REBIRTH I HAVE NOT
SPENT A SINGLE SLUMBER
ON THIS ISLAND.

MY KINGDOM.
MY ISLAND.

MY CITY OF
CRYSTAL.

JASON AND
HIS CREW
WERE MEN
OF ACTION IN
THEIR PREVIOUS
LIVES. THEY
LOOK TO ME
FOR ANSWERS.

AND WISDOM,
NEVER MY STRONG
SUIT AT THE BEST
OF TIMES.

AND I AM LONELY. THEY
DO NOT UNDERSTAND
ME, AND I DO NOT
UNDERSTAND THE WORLD
BEYOND THESE SHORES.

BUT THE MISSION
THAT ZEUS GAVE
ME, THE NAME HE
CALLED ME BY.

WARKILLER.

THAT IS A
MISSION I STILL
BELIEVE IN.

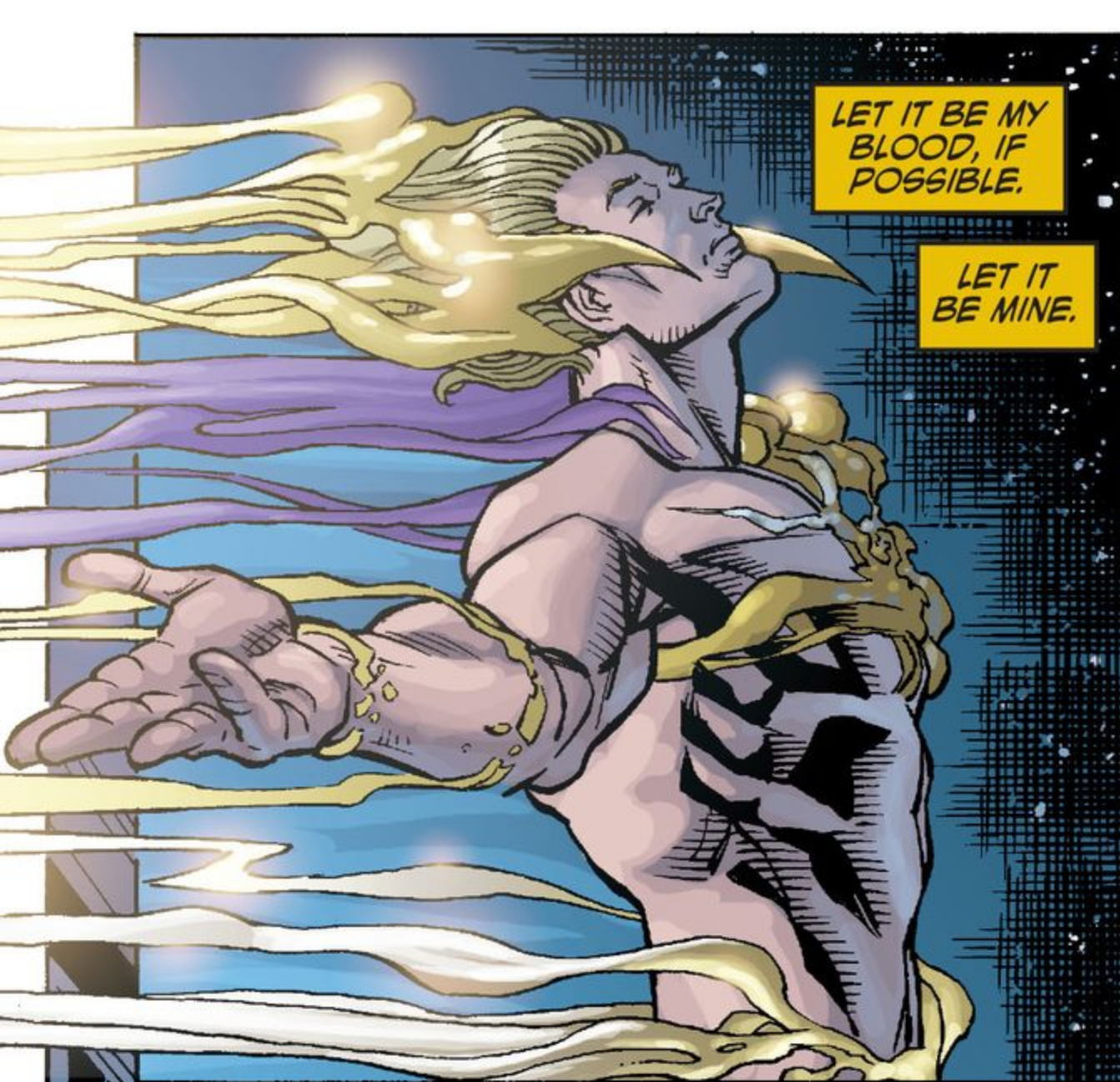
MYZIA.
COME.

THERE IS
MUCH BLOOD
ON MY HANDS.

IF I MUST SPILL
A LITTLE BIT MORE
TO SHOW THESE
PEOPLE THE FUTILITY
OF WAR--

--SO
BE IT.



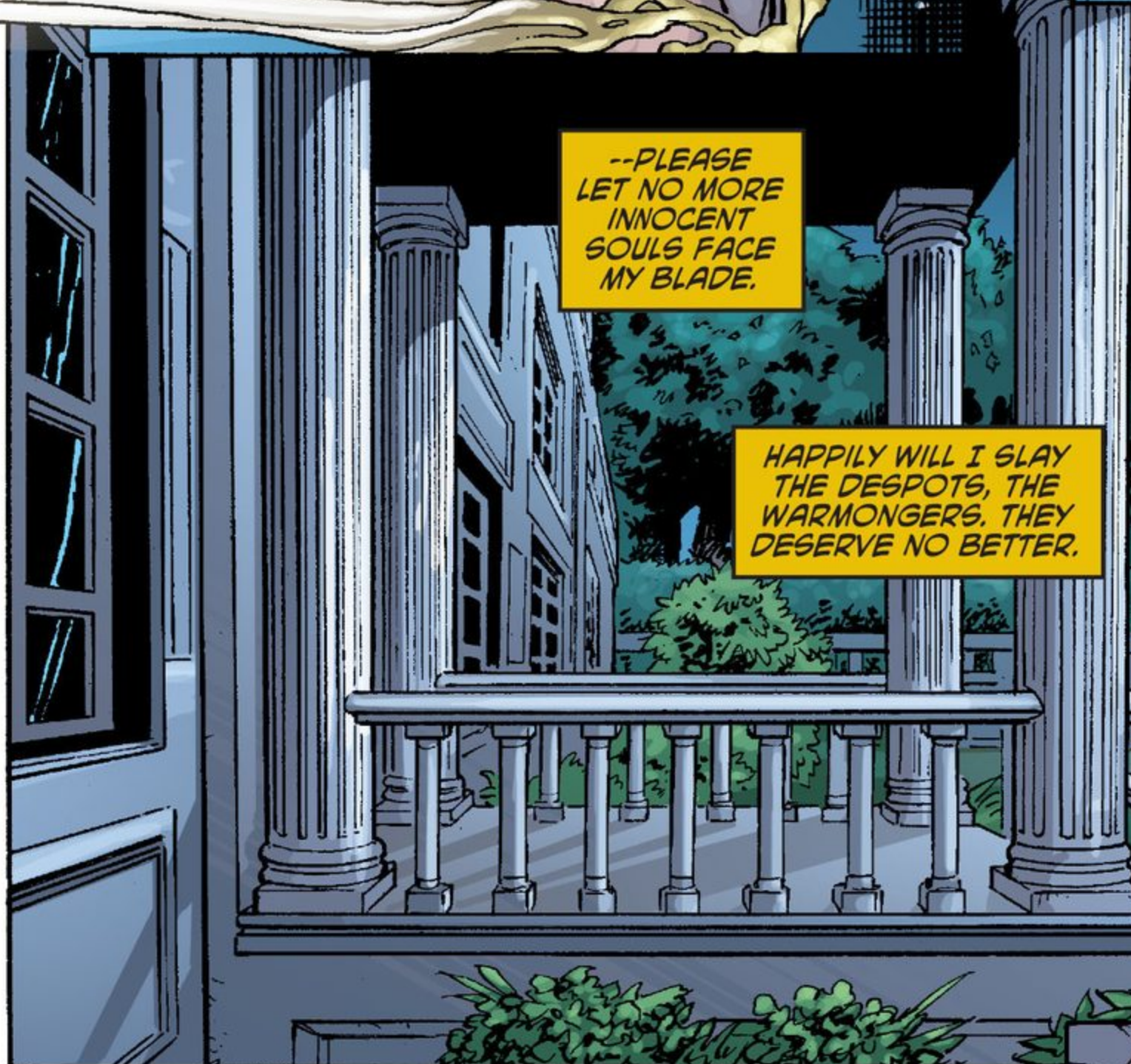


LET IT BE MY BLOOD, IF POSSIBLE.

LET IT BE MINE.



BUT FAILING THAT--



--PLEASE LET NO MORE INNOCENT SOULS FACE MY BLADE.

HAPPILY WILL I SLAY THE DESPOTS, THE WARMONGERS. THEY DESERVE NO BETTER.



MR. ACHILLES.
MR. ACHILLES!



BUT I WANT MY NAME TO MEAN SOMETHING GOOD IN THIS WORLD.

AH. PRINCESS DIANA SAID, UH...

SHE MENTIONED YOUR, UM, TRANSPORTATION WHEN SHE CALLED ME, BUT TO ACTUALLY SEE IT...!

IS THIS THE DOMICILE SHE RECOMMENDED?

IT IS.



THIS ENTIRE ESTATE BELONGED TO A PRINT MOGUL...NICE GUY, TOTALLY PARANOID. CRAZY SECURITY MEASURES.

IT'S GOT STABLES, THREE POOLS, GUEST QUARTERS. IT'S GOT EVERYTHING.

TAKE A LOOK BACK HERE.

THEY CALL THIS THE GROTTO... IT'S A GREEN-FRIENDLY, CARBON-NEUTRAL AQUA-THERAPY AND AMUSEMENT AREA, COMPLETE WITH FOUR HOT SAUNAS AND A ZERO IMMERSION POOL. ONE OF THE GREAT THINGS IS--

I DON'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING YOU'RE SAYING.

IT'S ACCEPTABLE.

I WILL BE PAYING IN BUCKETS OF GOLD.

BUCKETS OF, UH... DID YOU JUST SAY...

YOU SEEM FAMILIAR TO ME. DO I KNOW YOU SOMEHOW?

WHAT IS YOUR NAME, LAND-SELLER?

WHY, IT'S CLEESE.

PATRICK CLEESE.

PATROCLUS?

CLOSE ENOUGH, YOUR LORDSHIP.

IT CAN'T BE. IT CAN'T.

WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?

ARE YOU OKAY?

... AND DIANA CHOSE YOU, SPECIFICALLY, TO MEET ME HERE?

SHE DID, YES. DON'T KNOW WHY, EXACTLY...

WHEREVER YOU ARE, DIANA, MY PRINCESS, MY FRIEND...

I THANK YOU.

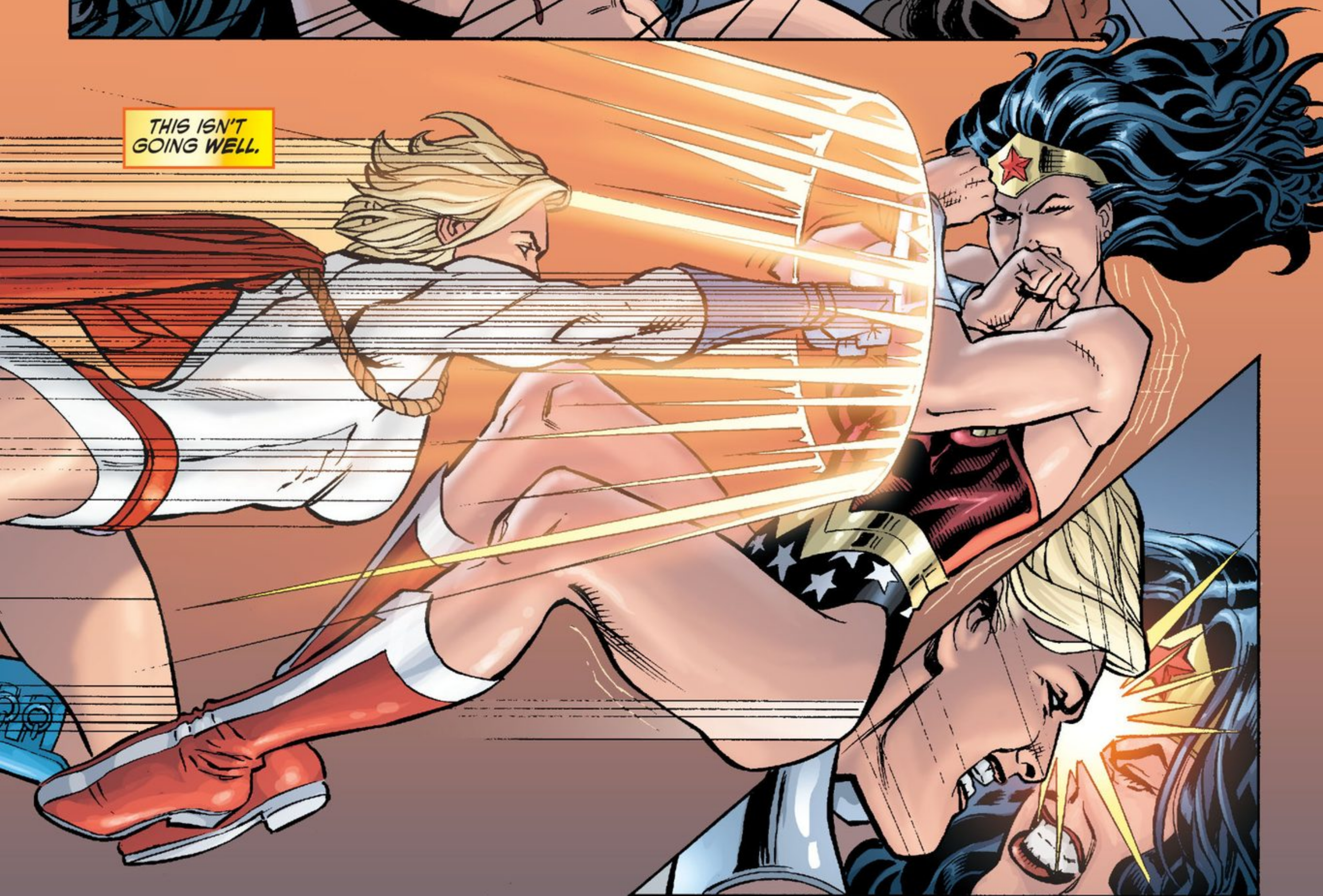
MISPLACED, I MIGHT BE. BUT ALONE?

PERHAPS NOT.



ALL THINGS
CONSIDERED...

... I'D RATHER
BE BACK ON
THEMYSCIRA.





SHOCKING.
WHAT SORT OF
"HEROES" FIGHT LIKE
THOUGHTLESS BADGERS
IN THE SKY FOR ALL
TO SEE?

MOST
UNLADYLIKE.

AND THEIR
OUTFITS! WHY,
I BELIEVE I MIGHT
HAVE SEEN SOMETHING
MOST UNSUITABLE
FOR A CHILD MY
AGE!

TWO
SOMETHINGS,
EVEN!



WELL,
ALL I CAN SAY
IS THAT I CAN ASSURE
YOU I WILL BE *MOST*
CONDEMNATORY WHEN I
WRITE OF THIS ON
MY BLOG.

IT'S THE
ONLY SANE
RESPONSE,
BROTHER
GOAT.



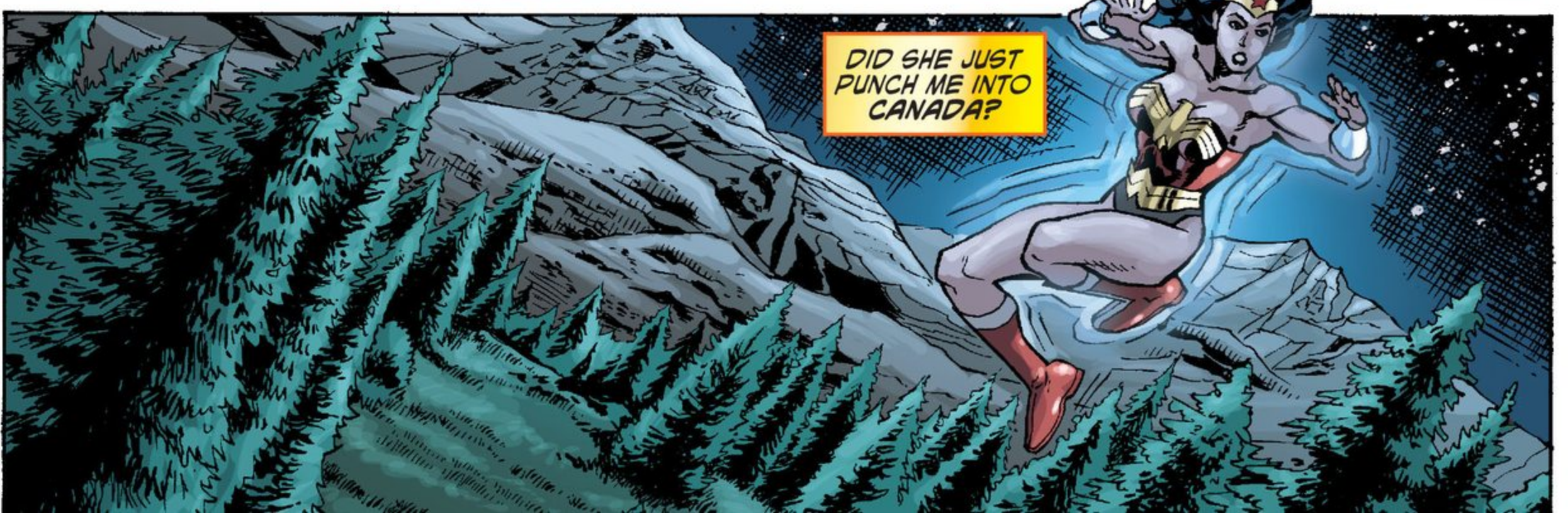
COME, BROTHERS. WE
MUST CONTINUE TO
SPREAD OUR MESSAGE
OF PEACE AND
LOVE.

BROTHER,
DO YOU HAVE THE
WHITE SUPREMACIST
LITERATURE TO
THROW FROM THE
ROOFTOPS?

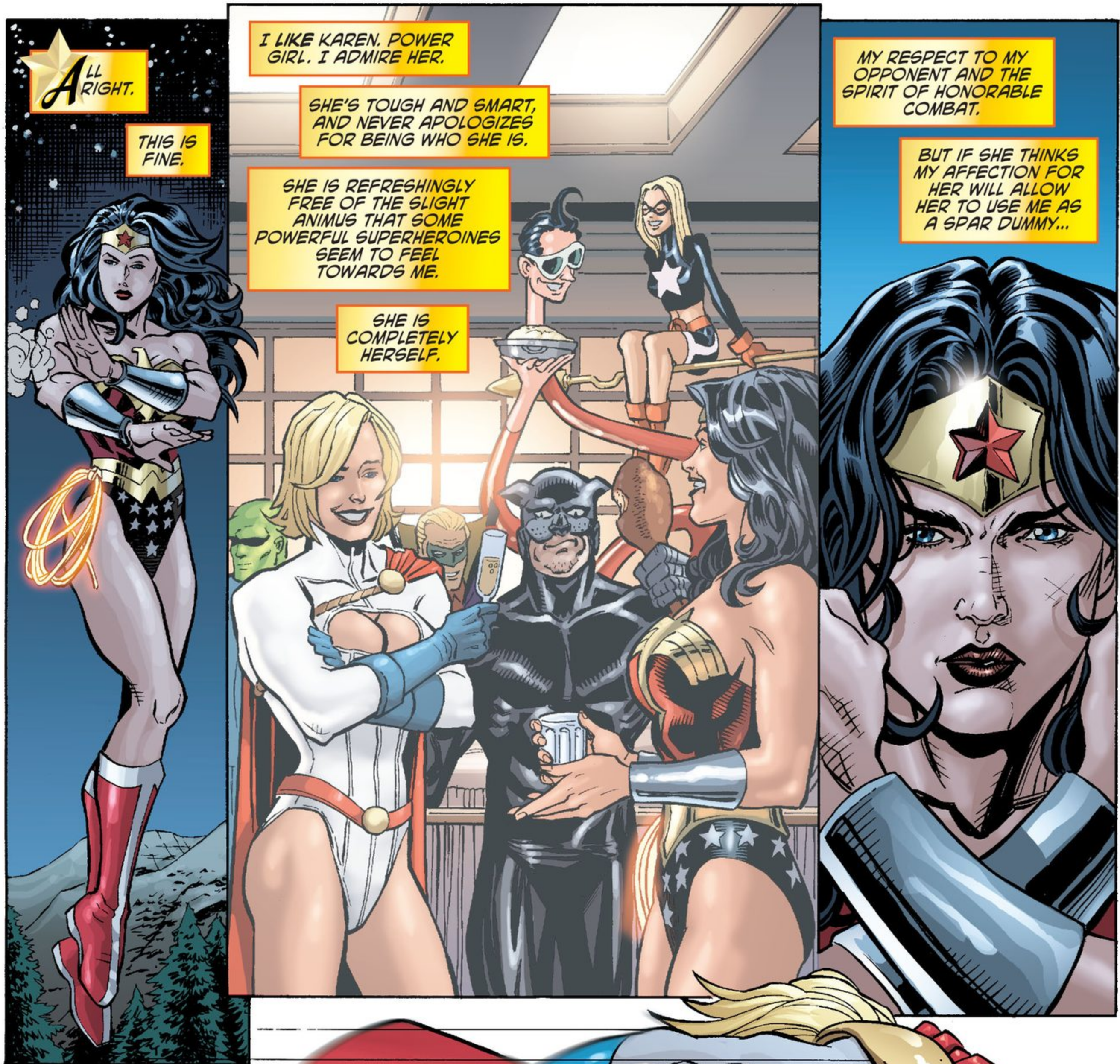
I MOST
ASSUREDLY DO, AND
APPALLING STUFF IT IS,
BROTHER ADDER!



*W*AIT. THIS
ISN'T...



DID SHE JUST
PUNCH ME INTO
CANADA?



ALL RIGHT.

THIS IS FINE.

I LIKE KAREN. POWER GIRL. I ADMIRE HER.

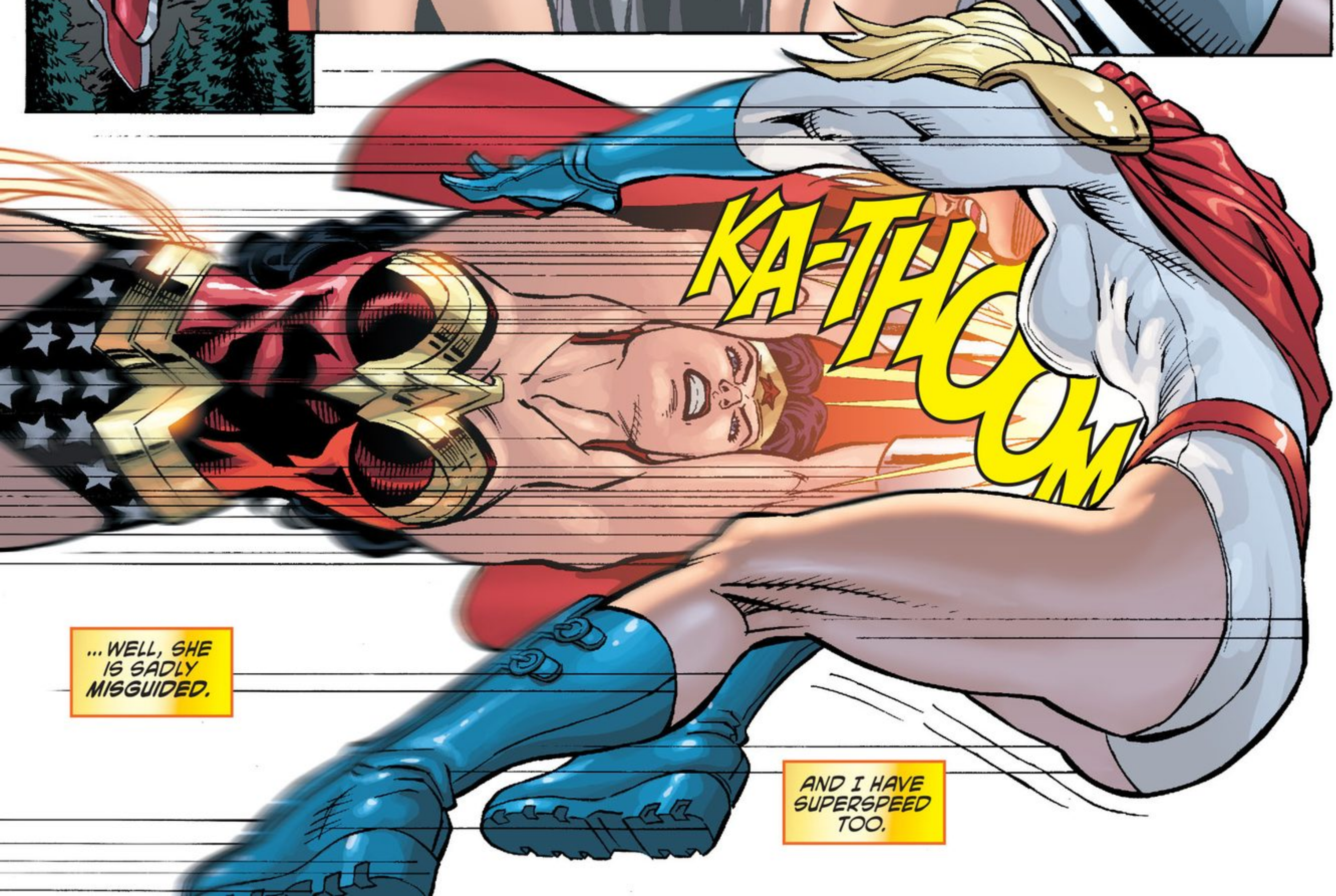
SHE'S TOUGH AND SMART, AND NEVER APOLOGIZES FOR BEING WHO SHE IS.

SHE IS REFRESHINGLY FREE OF THE SLIGHT ANIMUS THAT SOME POWERFUL SUPERHEROINES SEEM TO FEEL TOWARDS ME.

SHE IS COMPLETELY HERSELF.

MY RESPECT TO MY OPPONENT AND THE SPIRIT OF HONORABLE COMBAT.

BUT IF SHE THINKS MY AFFECTION FOR HER WILL ALLOW HER TO USE ME AS A SPAR DUMMY...



... WELL, SHE IS SADLY MISGUIDED.

AND I HAVE SUPERSPEED TOO.



OKAY.

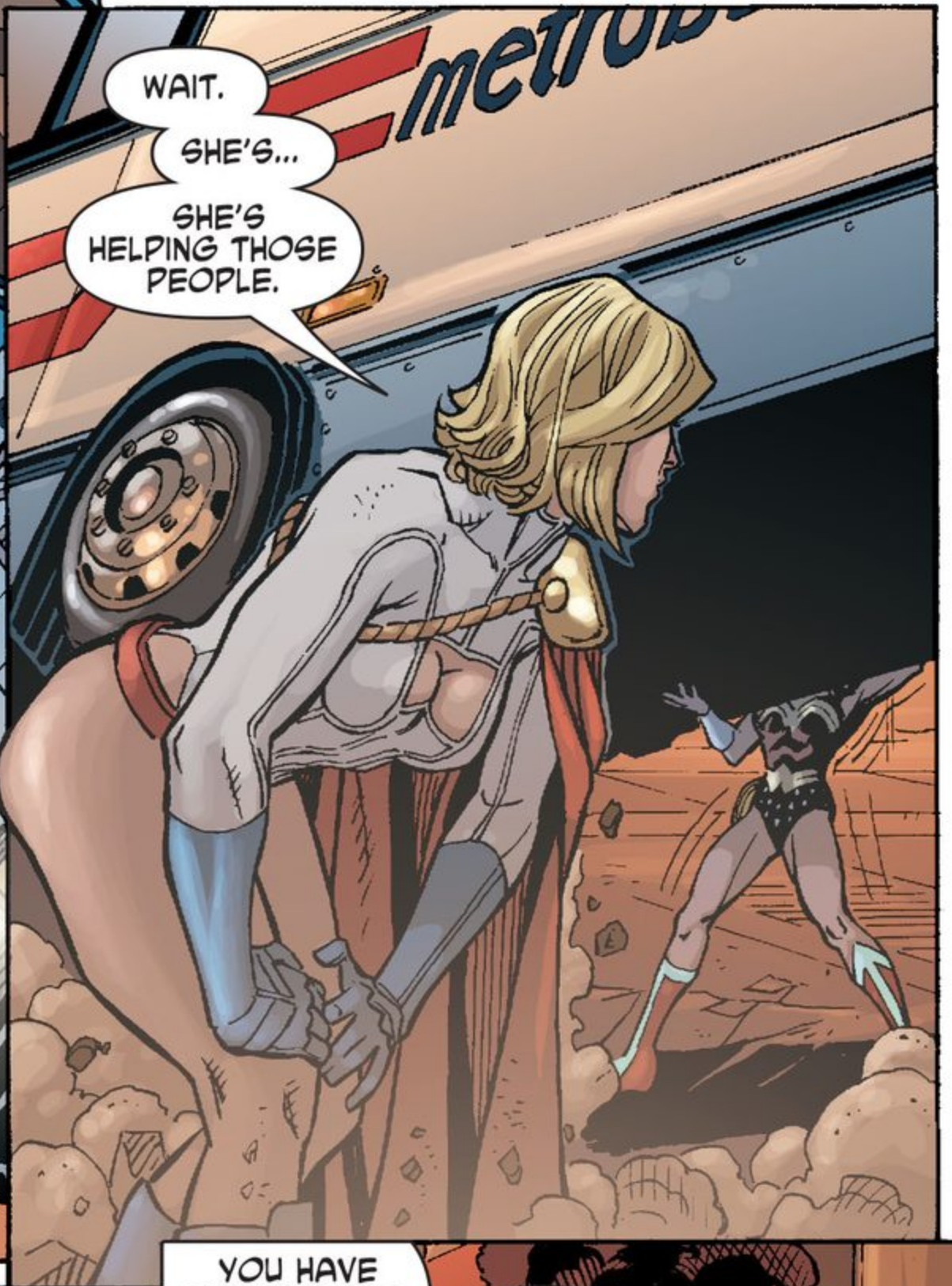
THE MONSTER CAN HIT.

I CAN RESPECT THAT.



MAYBE IT'S TIME SHE FOUND OUT WHAT I CAN DO WHEN I'M WELL AND TRULY TICKED OFF.

BRACE YOURSELVES!



WAIT.
SHE'S...
SHE'S HELPING THOSE PEOPLE.



HANG ON. DIANA. DIANA IS... SHE'S FREAKING DIANA, RIGHT?

AM I...



AM I BEING CHUMPED?

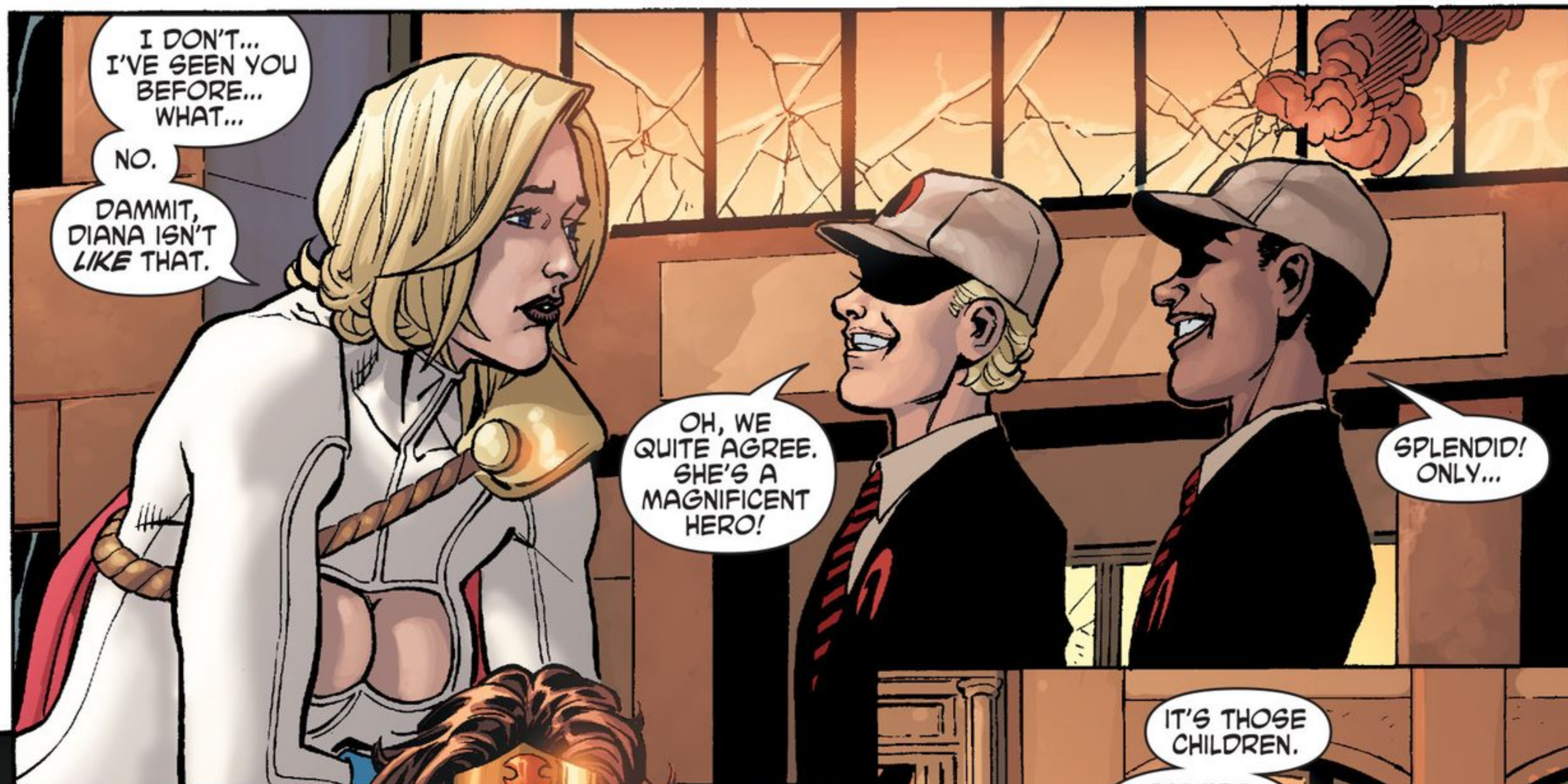


YOU HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO BE ANGRY, YOU KNOW.

JUST LOOK AT HER.

WHAT AN ATTENTION HOG THE PRINCESS IS!

SHAMEFUL, THAT'S WHAT IT IS. IT'S A SCANDAL, FOR CERTAIN!



I DON'T...
I'VE SEEN YOU
BEFORE...
WHAT...

NO.

DAMMIT,
DIANA ISN'T
LIKE THAT.

OH, WE
QUITE AGREE.
SHE'S A
MAGNIFICENT
HERO!

SPLENDID!
ONLY...



...I'M NOT
ENTIRELY
CERTAIN THAT
THAT ACTUALLY IS
WONDER WOMAN,
MISS GIRL.

POWER
GIRL.
KAREN.



IT'S THOSE
CHILDREN.

THEY'RE
BEHIND THIS,
SOMEHOW. CAN
YOU NOT SEE
THAT?

STAY
BEHIND ME,
KIDS.



YOU CAN'T
HAVE THEM,
MONSTER.

WHATEVER
YOU ARE, YOU
CAN'T HAVE
'EM!

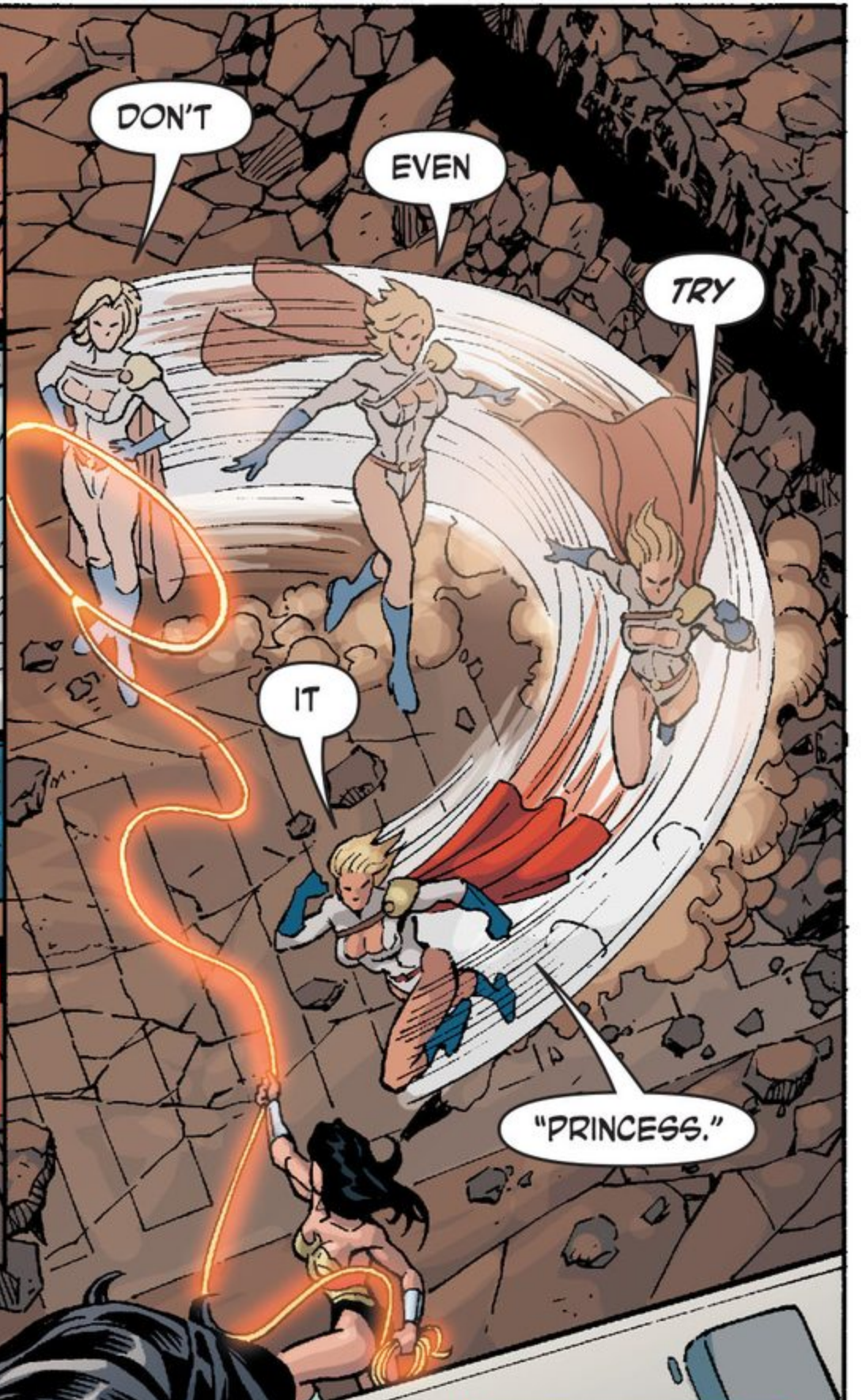


I DON'T LIKE DOING THIS.



I MAY NOT ACTUALLY BUY ALL OF HER "PEACE AND LOVE" SPEECHIFYING.

I MAY NOT ACTUALLY GET HOW PEOPLE'S EYES LIGHT UP WHEN HER NAME IS MENTIONED.



DON'T

EVEN

TRY

IT

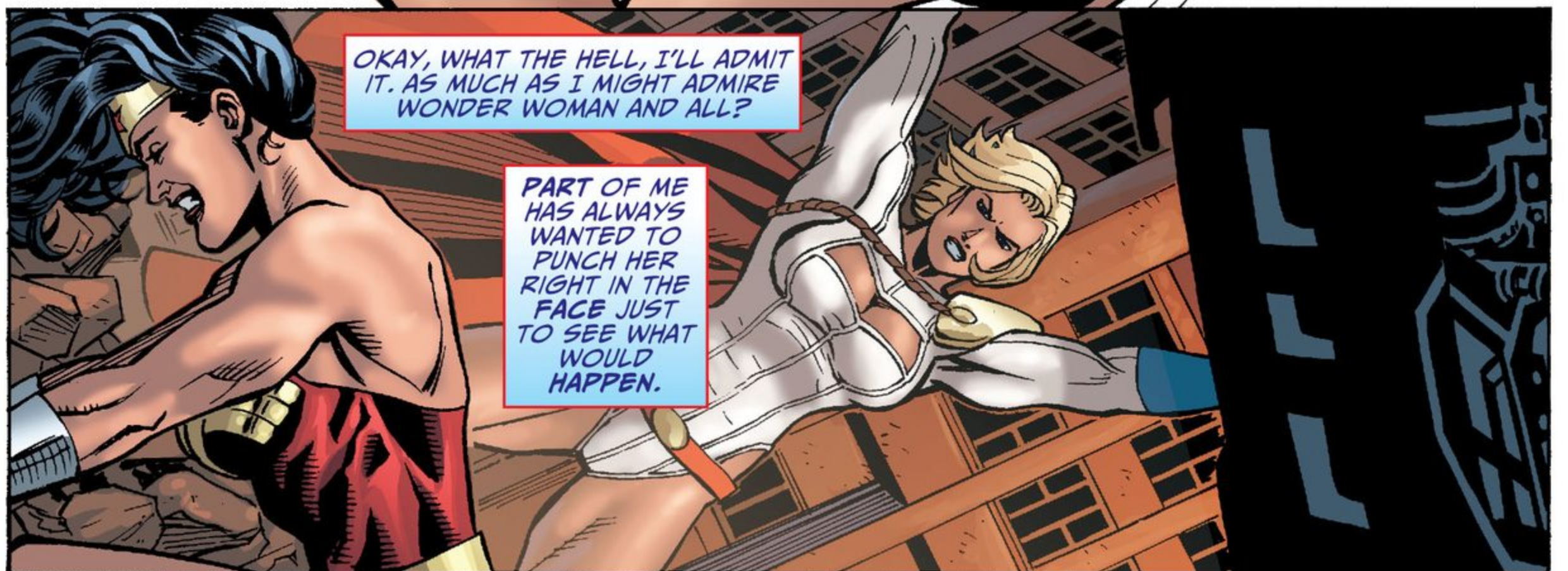
"PRINCESS."



AND TO BE HONEST, I'VE ALWAYS FELT THAT SHE'S MORE THAN A LITTLE PRIDEFUL.

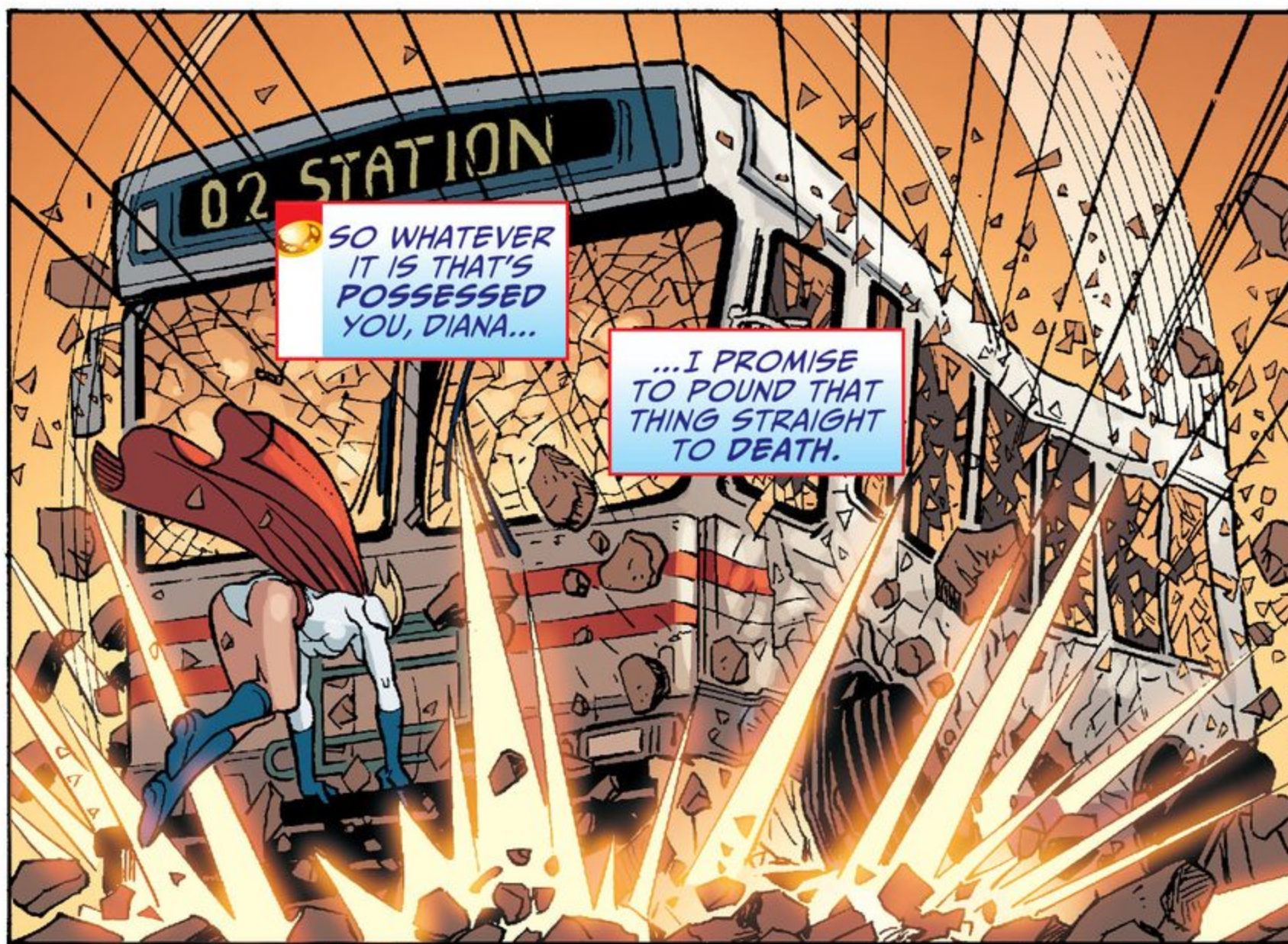
LIKE SHE WAS BETTER THAN EVERYONE ELSE. SMARTER.

I CAN RESPECT THAT, TOO.



OKAY, WHAT THE HELL, I'LL ADMIT IT. AS MUCH AS I MIGHT ADMIRE WONDER WOMAN AND ALL?

PART OF ME HAS ALWAYS WANTED TO PUNCH HER RIGHT IN THE FACE JUST TO SEE WHAT WOULD HAPPEN.



SO WHATEVER
IT IS THAT'S
POSSESSED
YOU, DIANA...

...I PROMISE
TO POUND THAT
THING STRAIGHT
TO DEATH.



SHE'S
STRONGER
THAN WE
THOUGHT.
SMARTER,
TOO.

ADMIRE HER LATER,
BROTHER GOAT. THIS
ACCELERATES OUR
TIMETABLE.

WE
HAVE TO
HURRY.

IF WE
WANT HATE
TO BURN THIS
CITY, I
MEAN!



SHE CAUSED
ALL THIS, POWER
GIRL! KILL
HER!

KILL WONDER
WOMAN!

TSK. MOB
VIOLENCE.

THEY'LL
ALL REGRET
THIS IN THE
MORNING, I'M
SURE!



ALL RIGHT. MY
CITY IS BURNING,
AND TIME IS
RUNNING OUT.

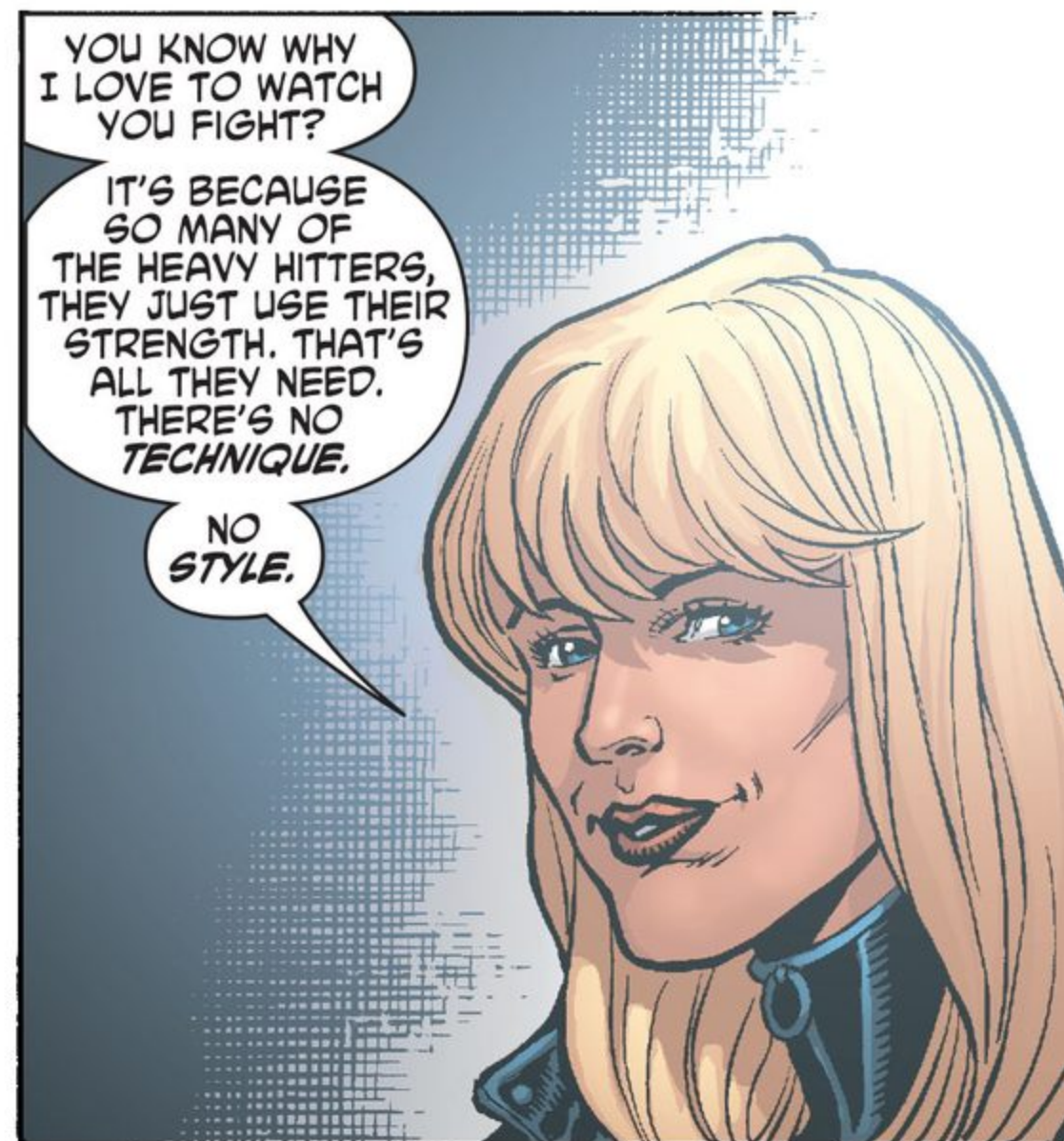
SHE'S AT LEAST
AS STRONG AND
AS FAST AS I AM.

ACKNOWLEDGED.

ENOUGH.

YOU WERE
WARNED.

NOW IT'S TIME
FOR ME TO
REMEMBER WHAT
THE BLACK
CANARY SAID.



YOU KNOW WHY
I LOVE TO WATCH
YOU FIGHT?

IT'S BECAUSE
SO MANY OF
THE HEAVY HITTERS,
THEY JUST USE THEIR
STRENGTH. THAT'S
ALL THEY NEED.
THERE'S NO
TECHNIQUE.

NO
STYLE.



NO MORE
WARNINGS.



LIKE
I NEED
ANY.

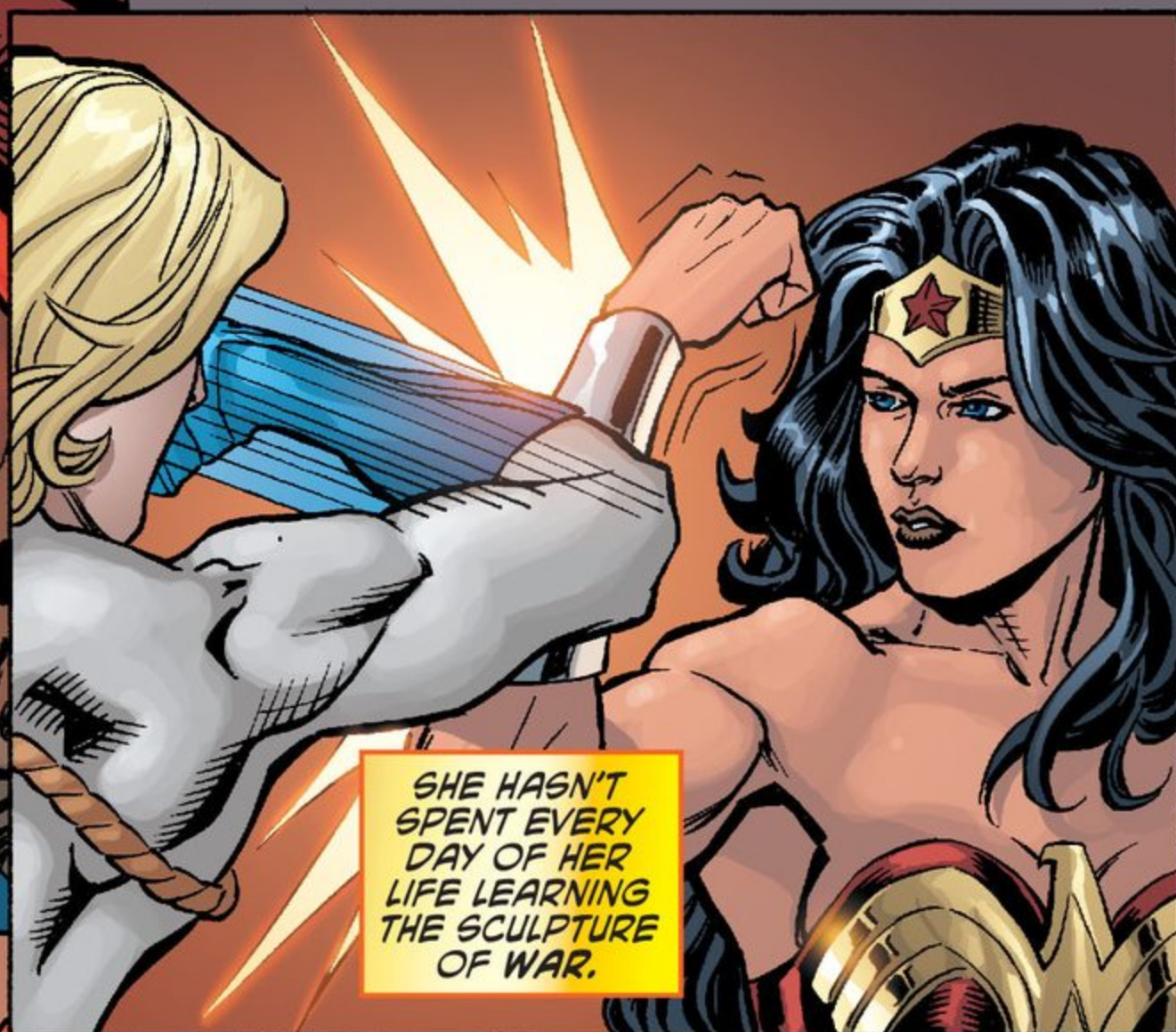


SHE'S GOOD.

IT'S NOT JUST BRUTE FORCE.



BUT SHE ISN'T AMAZON.

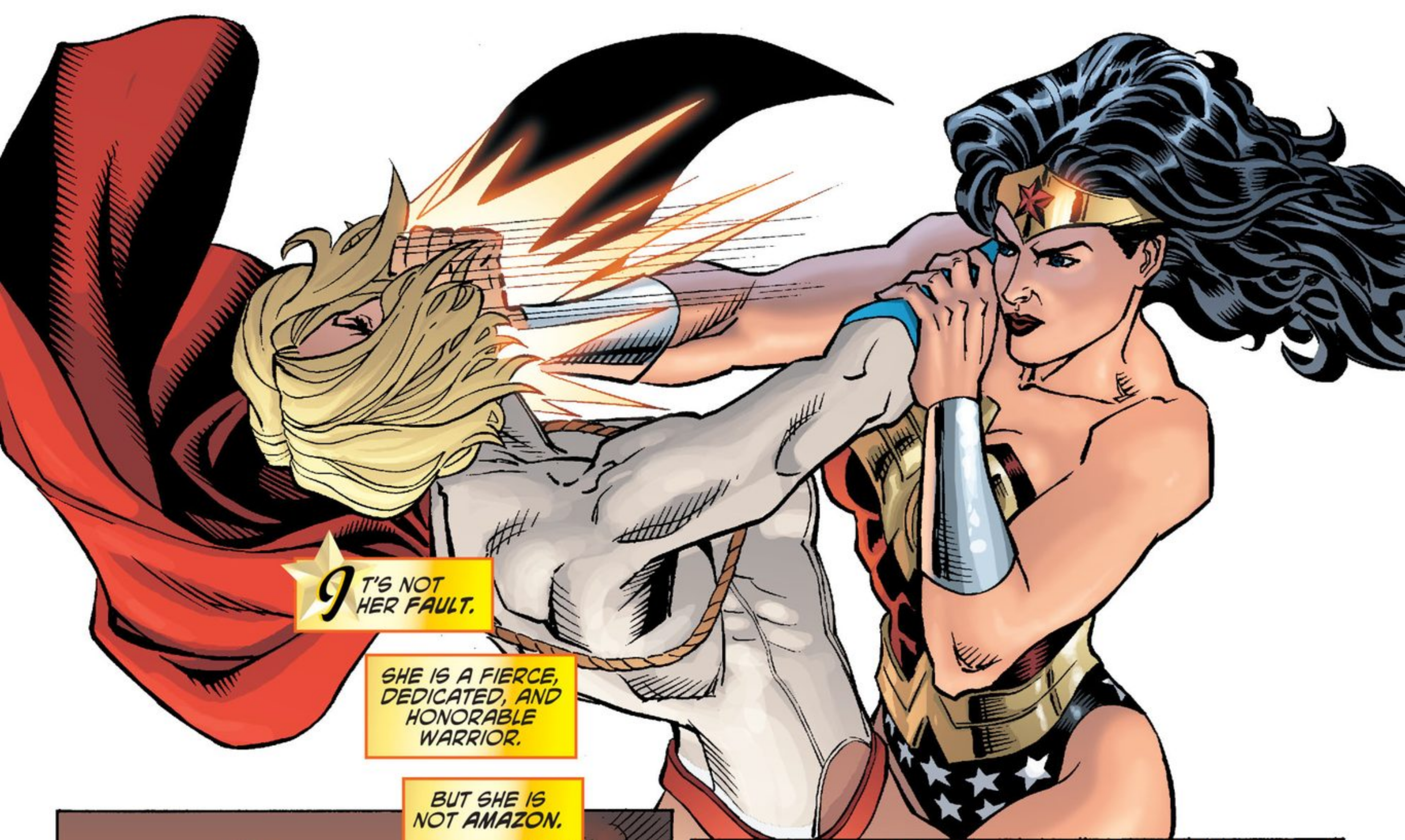


SHE HASN'T SPENT EVERY DAY OF HER LIFE LEARNING THE SCULPTURE OF WAR.



GAAAAAH!

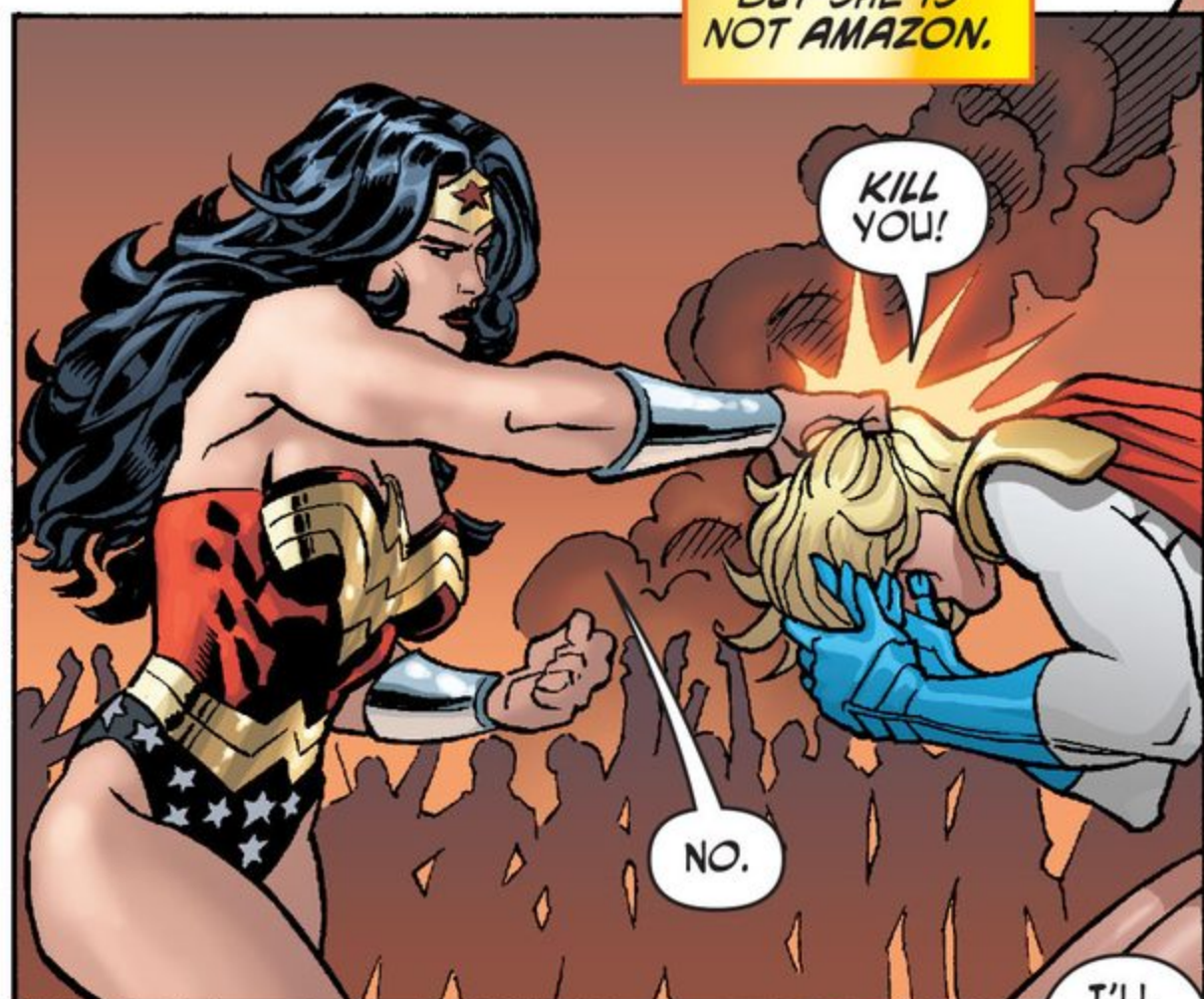
SHE WASN'T BAPTIZED IN HER SISTERS' BLOOD.



9 T'S NOT
HER FAULT.

SHE IS A FIERCE,
DEDICATED, AND
HONORABLE
WARRIOR.

BUT SHE IS
NOT AMAZON.



KILL
YOU!

NO.

I'LL
RIP
YOUR
HEAD
OFF.



UHGHN...

YOU ARE
KAREN STARR,
POWER GIRL.

THAT'S
HOW WE'LL
BEAT THIS.

YOU ARE
ONE OF THE
STUBBORNEST,
MOST ARROGANT
WOMEN I
HAVE EVER
KNOWN.



NO.

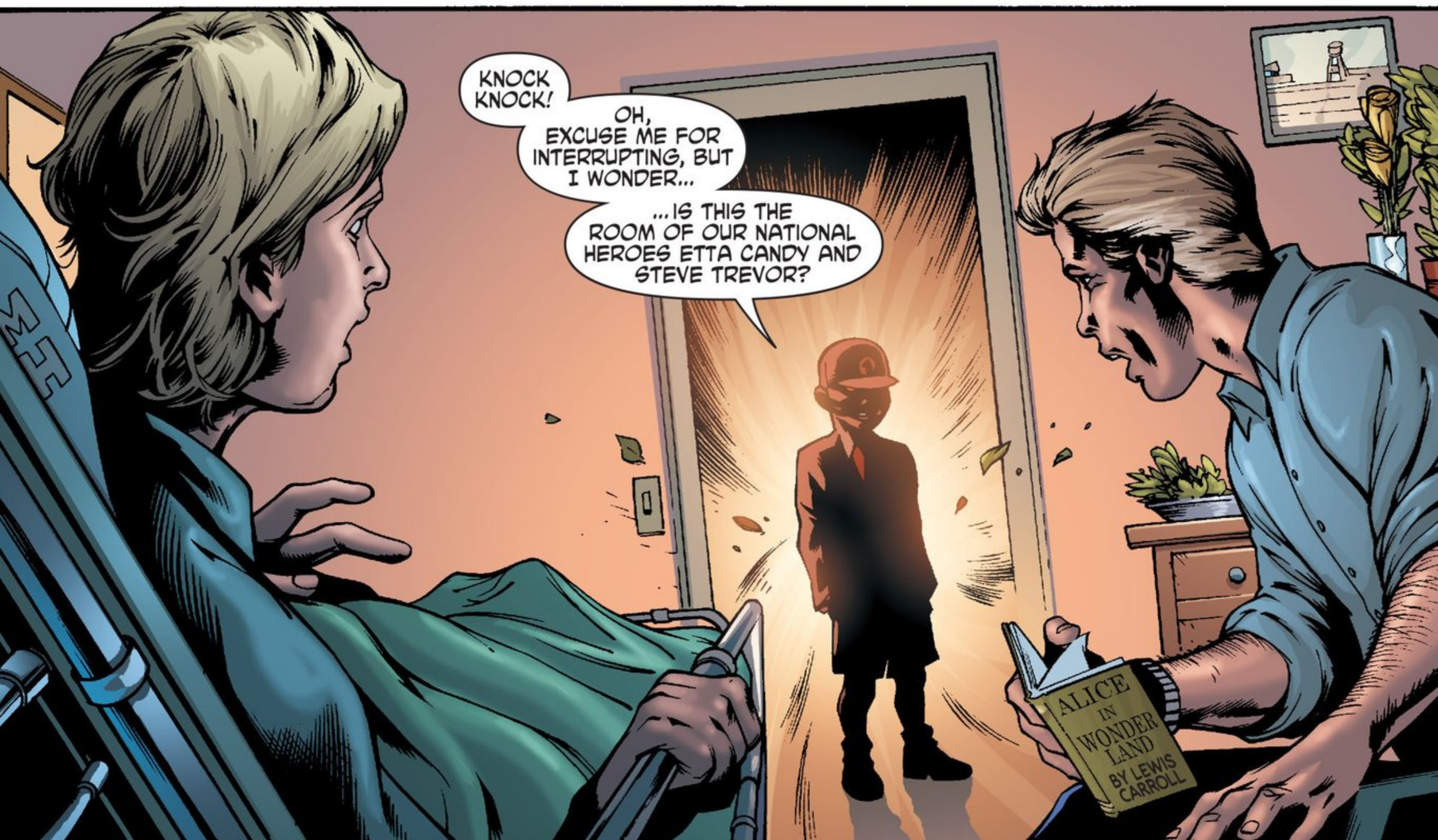
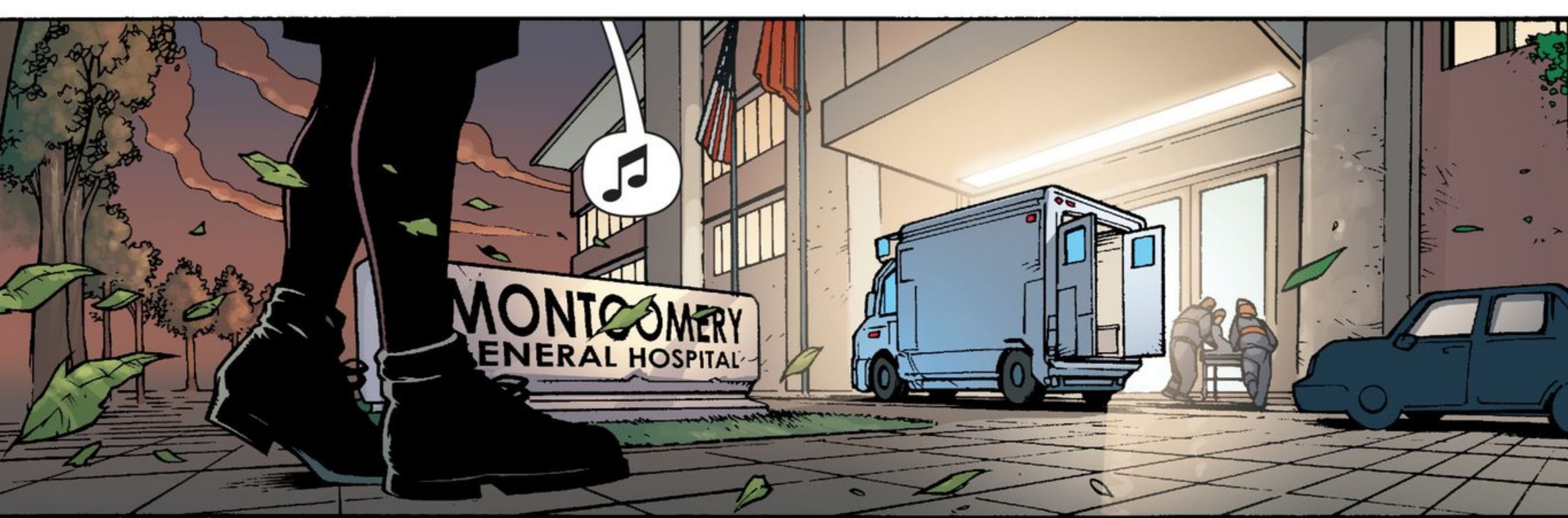
I SAY
AGAIN, YOU
ARE *POWER
GIRL*.

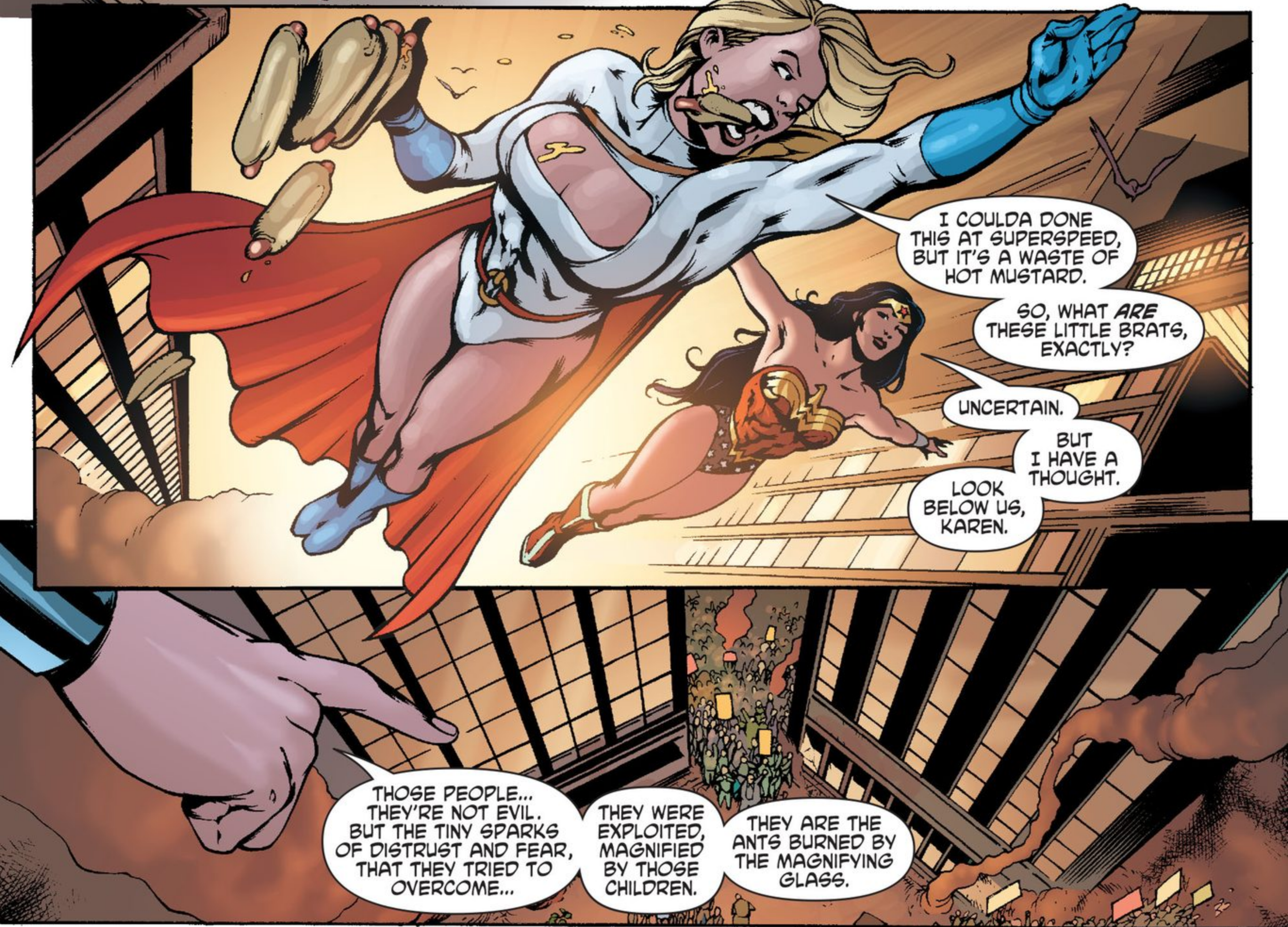
AND I HAVE
ONE QUESTION
FOR YOU, WHEN
HAVE YOU
EVER...

AND
I MEAN
EVER...



...DONE AS
YOU WERE
TOLD?





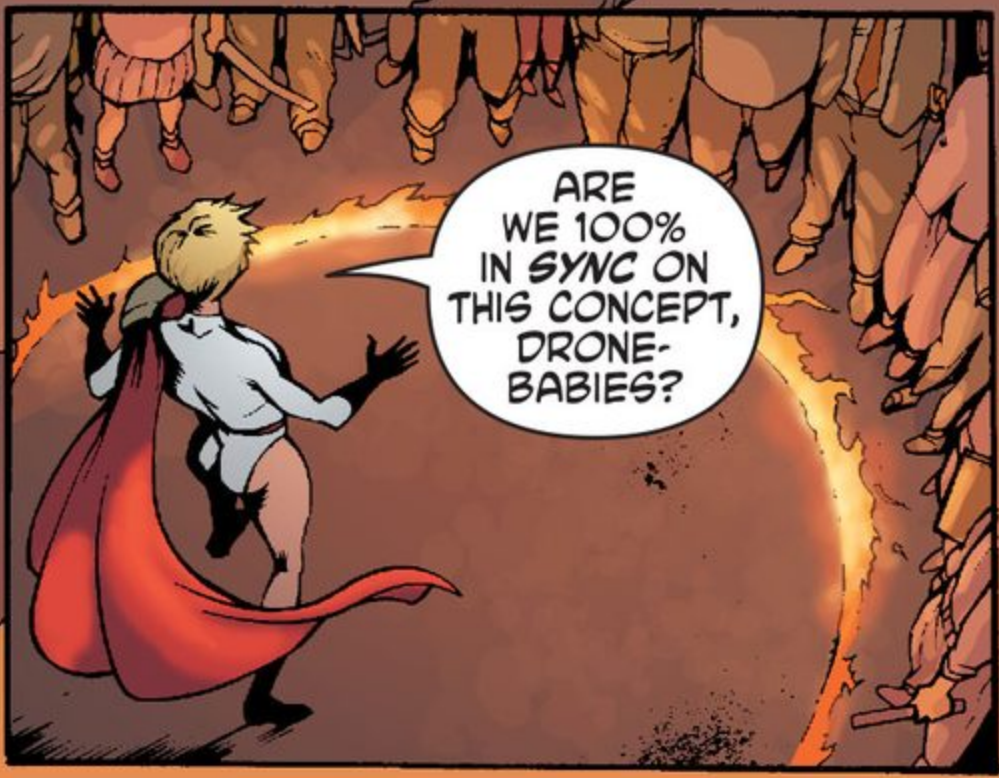




MY NAME IS *POWER GIRL*.

AND ANY ONE OF YOU LOSERS TAKES A STEP INSIDE THAT CIRCLE?

YOU HAFTA DEAL WITH *ME*.



ARE WE 100% IN *SYNC* ON THIS CONCEPT, DRONE-BABIES?



UM. OKAY.

THAT DIDN'T WORK!



UH. PRETEND I'M *DIANA*, THEN.

THINK OF THE *POWER* OF LOVE AND ALL THAT CRAP, OKAY?

HOPE AND BROTHERHOOD OR WHATEVER! NO? NO GO?

OH, *MAN!*



OH, THIS IS JUST AWFUL. WHAT A SAD STATEMENT ON THE WHOLE "MELTING POT" MYTH.

I PREDICT A DEATH TOLL IN THE *THOUSANDS*, BROTHERS.

I THINK NOT, CHILDREN OF *ARES*.



THAT'S
WHAT YOU ARE,
CORRECT?

THE
SPAWN OF
THE GOD
OF WAR.

I AM THE
MISTRESS
OF THE HUNT,
CHILDREN.

I KNOW
HIS FOOTPRINT.
I KNOW HIS
SPOOR.



IT'S
TOO LATE,
DIANA.

YOU KILLED OUR
FATHER!

NOW
WE'LL MAKE
THOSE YOU
PROTECT
KILL EACH
OTHER!

WON'T YOU
HELP THEM, DIANA?
WON'T YOU BATHE
IN THEIR BLOOD?



POOR
SOND OF
NOTHING.

THOSE WHO
LOVE ARE
BEST LIVE THE
SHORTEST
TIME.

YOUR
TRICKS WON'T
WORK ON ME, AS
I HAVE ARMORED
MYSELF WITH
THE TRUTH.



AND NOW,
I METE OUT A
PUNISHMENT
YOU WILL
REMEMBER.



OKAY.
OKAY,
LISTEN.

NO MORE
THREATS. NO
TRICKS.



YOU'RE ALONE.
YOU ALL FEEL LIKE
THE ONLY ONES
WHO FEEL LIKE
YOU DO.

YOU DON'T
UNDERSTAND
THE PEOPLE
AROUND
YOU.

AND YOU
GET MAD.



BUT... DAMMIT,
PEOPLE.

LOOK
AROUND
YOU.

LOOK AT THESE
PEOPLE YOU WANT
TO HURT. BECAUSE
YOU HURT.



BUT COME ON.
ARE THESE PEOPLE
REALLY YOUR
ENEMIES?

THEY'RE
YOUR NEIGHBORS,
GUYS.

THAT
MAY NOT
SOUND LIKE
MUCH, BUT
TAKE IT FROM
SOMEONE
WHO...

...WHO
NEVER
THOUGHT
SHE'D HAVE
NEIGHBORS
AGAIN, YOU
KNOW?



YOU CAN'T... YOU CAN'T
DO THIS. YOU CAN'T
DO THIS!

I CAN AND
WILL. WHO GOES
FIRST?



IS THIS
ACTUALLY
WORKING?

HOLY CRAP,
I THINK IT'S
WORKING.

I'M NOT
SAYING YOU
HAVE TO LOVE
EVERYONE.
THAT'S
NOT...

...THAT'S
NOT HOW
I LIVE.

BUT
DON'T BE
ALONE,
GUYS.

BE PART
OF SOMETHING
BIGGER. THAT'S
ALL.

THAT'S
ALL.

MAYBE
THERE IS
A LITTLE
DIANA IN ME
AFTER ALL!





I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT I SAID, BUT--

--YOU SPOKE FROM YOUR DEEPEST HEART, KAREN. IT MOVED THEM.

THERE WILL BE A HEALING.
I'M PROUD OF YOU.



SHUCKS.
ME, TOO, A LITTLE, I GUESS.
SO, WHAT DID YOU DO WITH THOSE LITTLE MONSTERS?

WE AMAZONS HAVE REBUILT AN ISLAND FOR THIS SORT OF THING. A PLACE OF REFORMATION. I AM NOT HOPEFUL.
BUT WE HAVE TO TRY.
THEY ARE PART AMAZON, AFTER ALL.



NO, I MEAN... WHAT WAS THIS PUNISHMENT YOU THREATENED THEM WITH?

OH. THAT.

I GAVE THEM ALL A GOOD HARD SPANKING.



YOU DID NOT. YOU DID NOT GIVE THE GOD OF WAR A HIDING!

I DID. I MUST SAY...
...THEY DIDN'T MUCH CARE FOR IT.



OH, MAN, I MAY HAVE TO BREAK DOWN AND ASK FOR YOUR AUTOGRAPH.

FUNNY, I WAS ABOUT TO ASK THE SAME THING OF YOU.





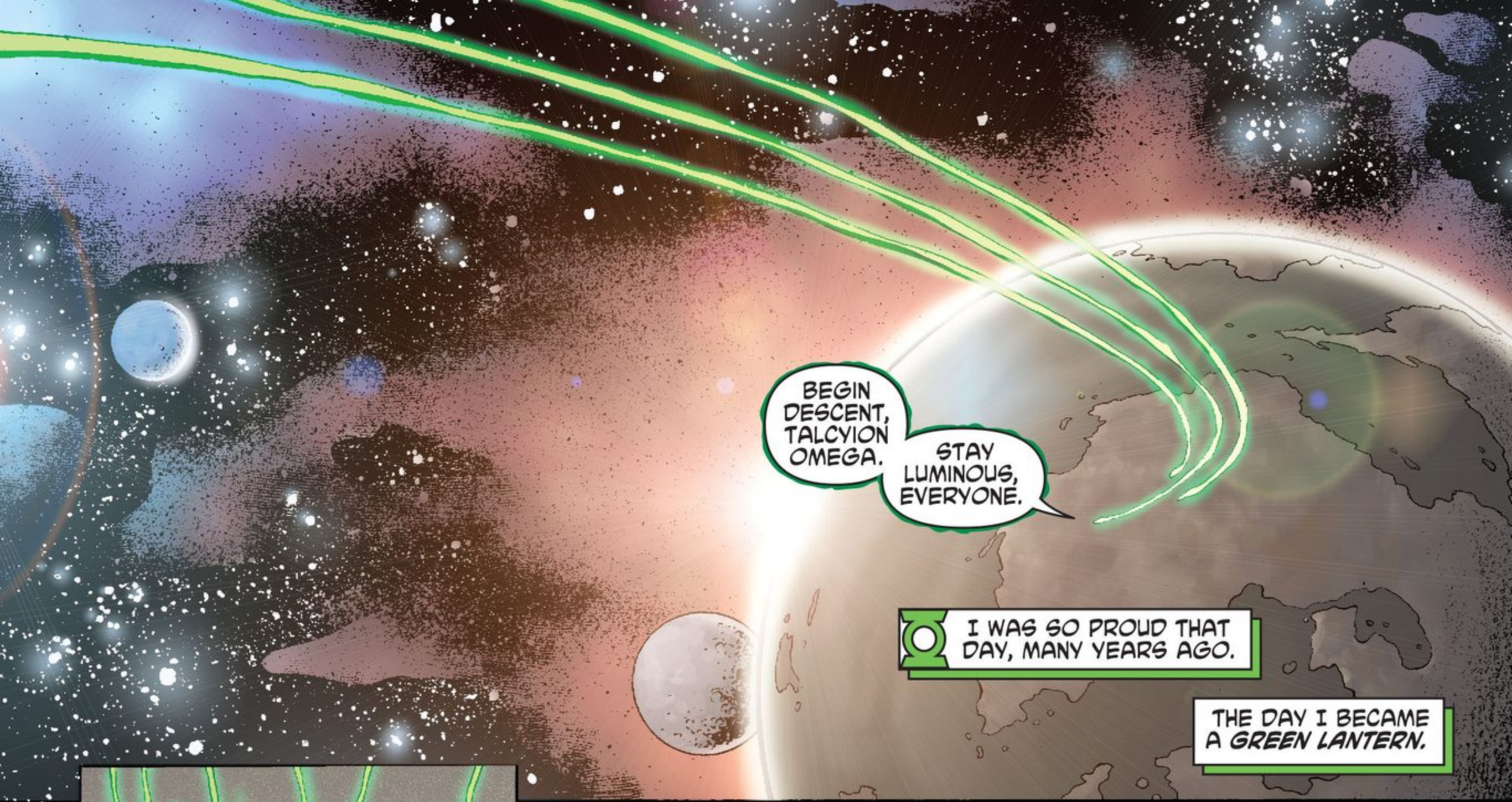
WRATH OF THE SILVER SERPENT

PART ONE

CONTAGION

Nicola Scott and Fernando Dagnino Pencillers
Doug Hazlewood and Bit Inkers

Cover by Nicola Scott with Hi-Fi



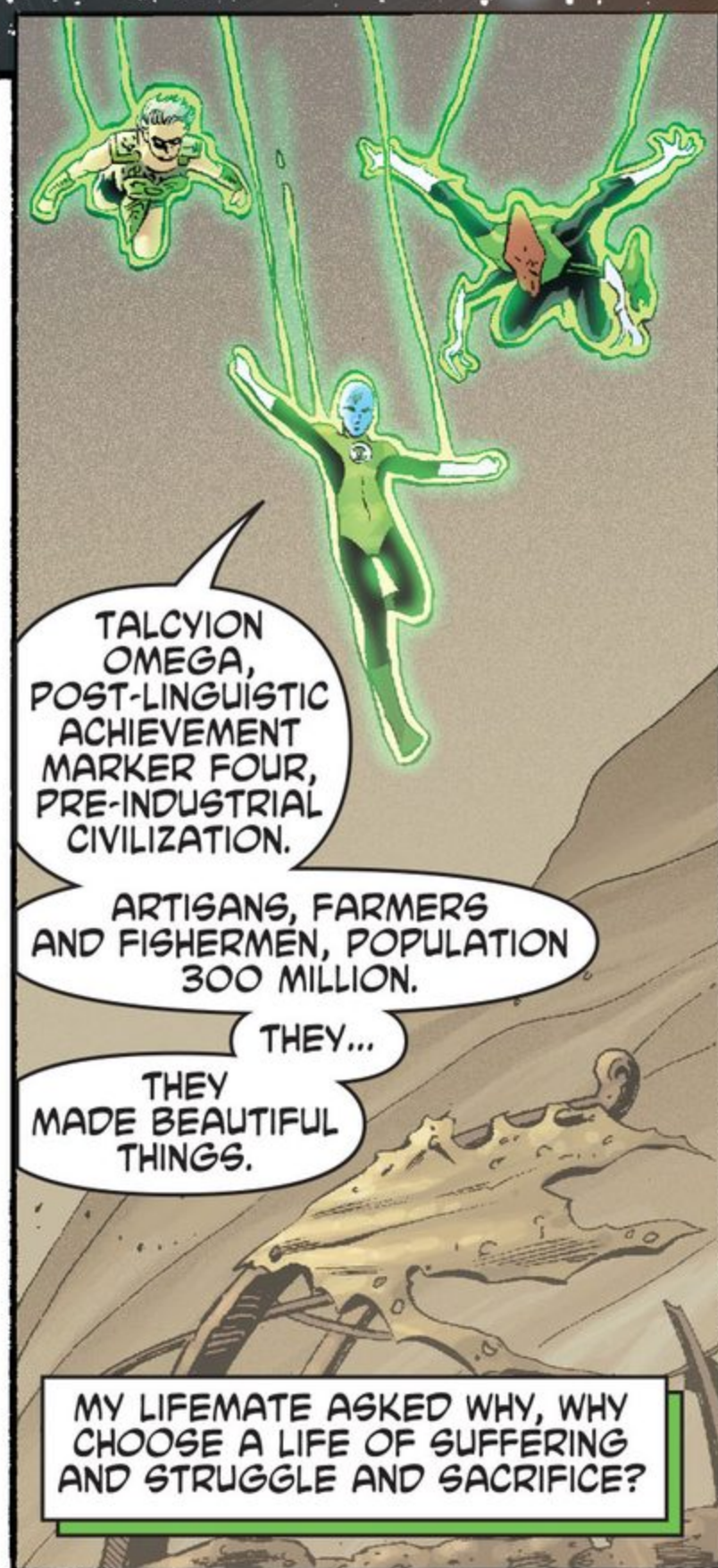
BEGIN
DESCENT,
TALCYION
OMEGA.

STAY
LUMINOUS,
EVERYONE.



I WAS SO PROUD THAT
DAY, MANY YEARS AGO.

THE DAY I BECAME
A GREEN LANTERN.



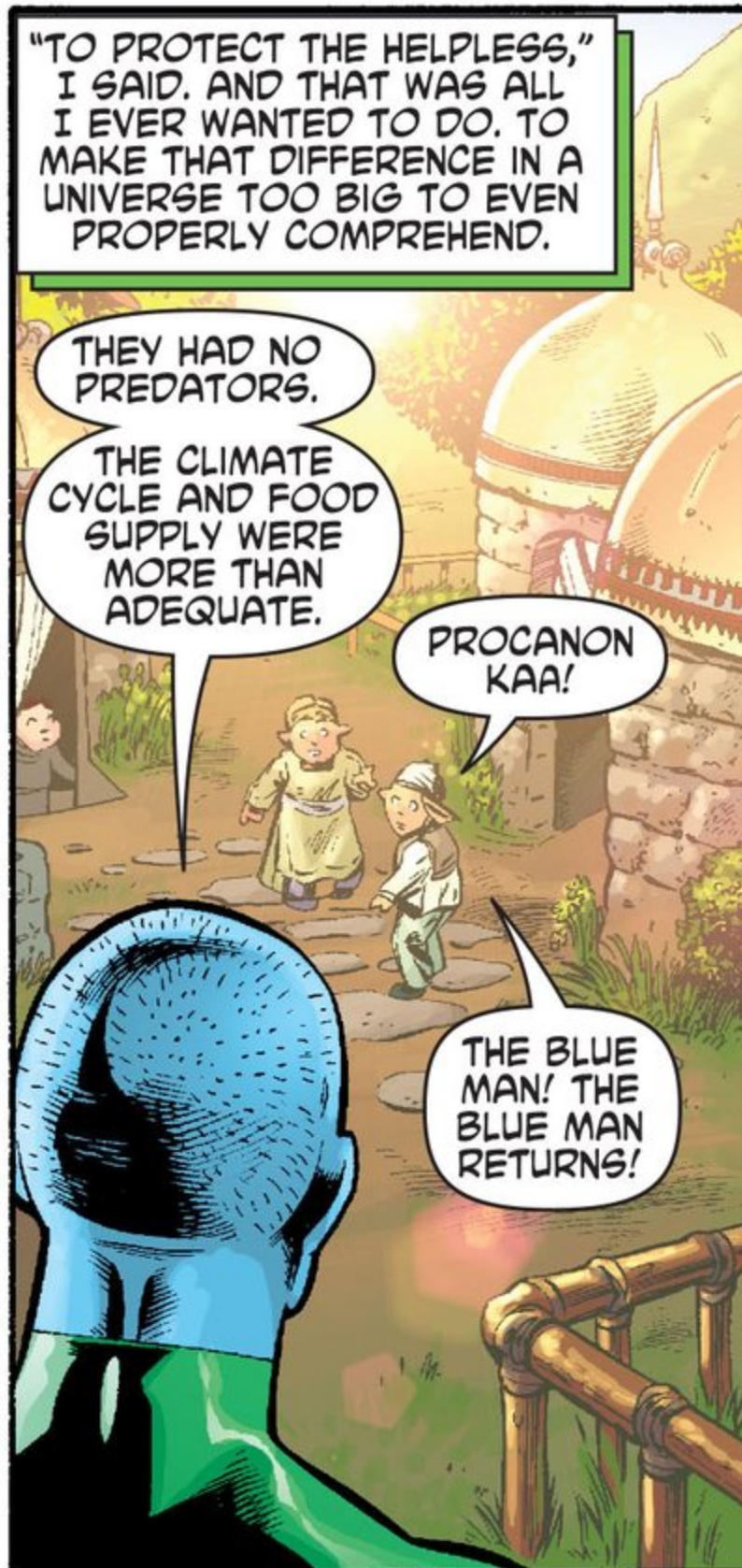
TALCYION
OMEGA,
POST-LINGUISTIC
ACHIEVEMENT
MARKER FOUR,
PRE-INDUSTRIAL
CIVILIZATION.

ARTISANS, FARMERS
AND FISHERMEN, POPULATION
300 MILLION.

THEY...

THEY
MADE BEAUTIFUL
THINGS.

MY LIFEMATE ASKED WHY, WHY
CHOOSE A LIFE OF SUFFERING
AND STRUGGLE AND SACRIFICE?



"TO PROTECT THE HELPLESS,"
I SAID. AND THAT WAS ALL
I EVER WANTED TO DO. TO
MAKE THAT DIFFERENCE IN A
UNIVERSE TOO BIG TO EVEN
PROPERLY COMPREHEND.

THEY HAD NO
PREDATORS.

THE CLIMATE
CYCLE AND FOOD
SUPPLY WERE
MORE THAN
ADEQUATE.

PROCANON
KAA!

THE BLUE
MAN! THE
BLUE MAN
RETURNS!



MAKE
THE GREEN
MAGIC FOR US,
PROCANON
KAA!

LIGHT
UP THE
SKY, BLUE
MAN!

THEY
HAD NEVER
KNOWN FEAR.
THEY WOULDN'T
KNOW TO RUN
OR FIGHT.

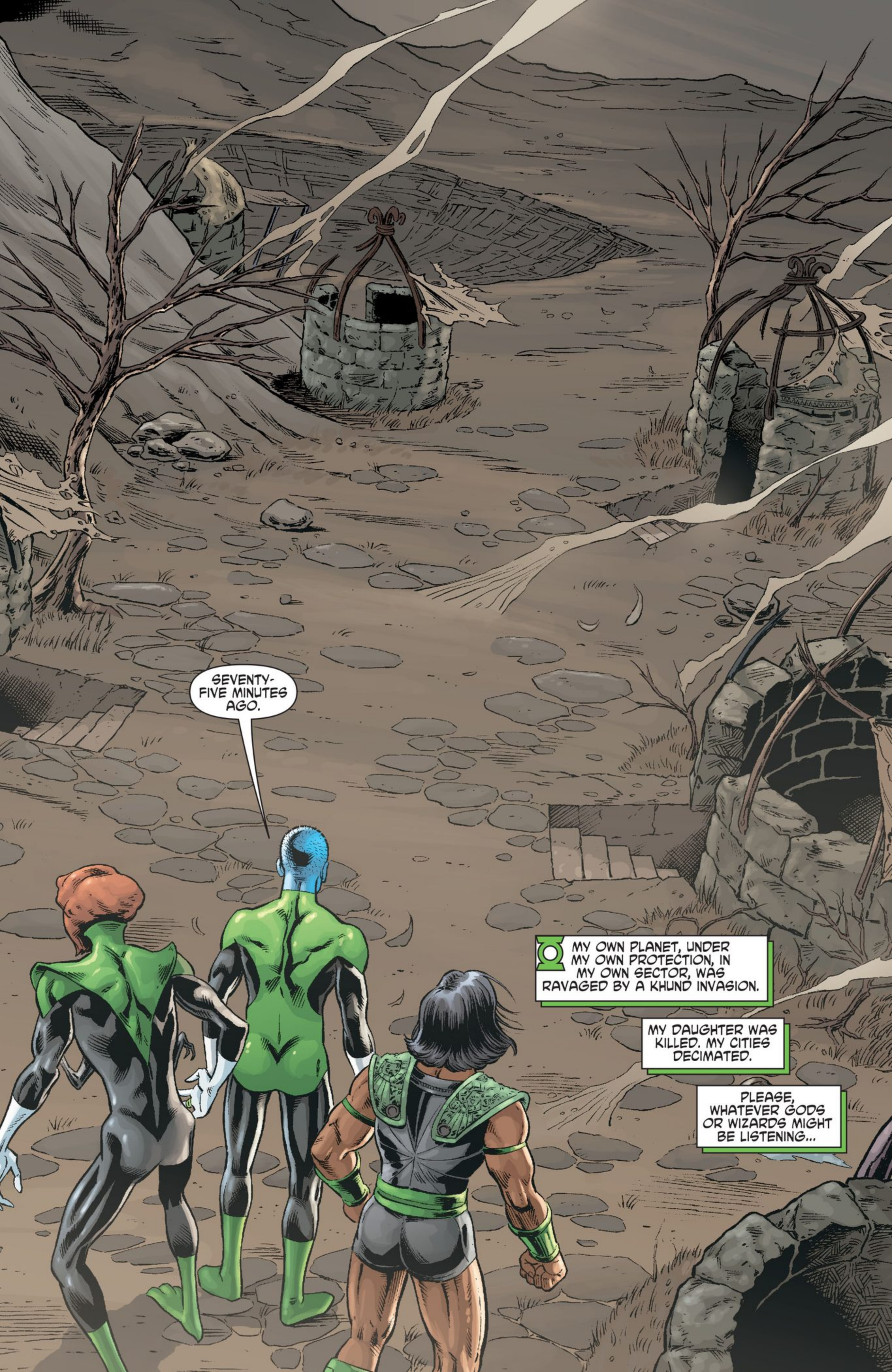
TO SAVE
LIVES THAT WOULD
OTHERWISE PERISH.



PROCANON KAA.
WE WANT TO HELP.
IT'S WHY WE'RE HERE,
AT THIS BORDER
WORLD.

BUT I DON'T
UNDERSTAND.

WHEN DID
YOU LAST
VISIT THIS...
THIS EMPTY
WASTELAND?
WHEN DID
YOU LAST
SEE THESE
PEOPLE?



SEVENTY-
FIVE MINUTES
AGO.

 MY OWN PLANET, UNDER
MY OWN PROTECTION, IN
MY OWN SECTOR, WAS
RAVAGED BY A KHUND INVASION.

MY DAUGHTER WAS
KILLED. MY CITIES
DECIMATED.

PLEASE,
WHATEVER GODS
OR WIZARDS MIGHT
BE LISTENING...



...DON'T LET THAT HAPPEN AGAIN.

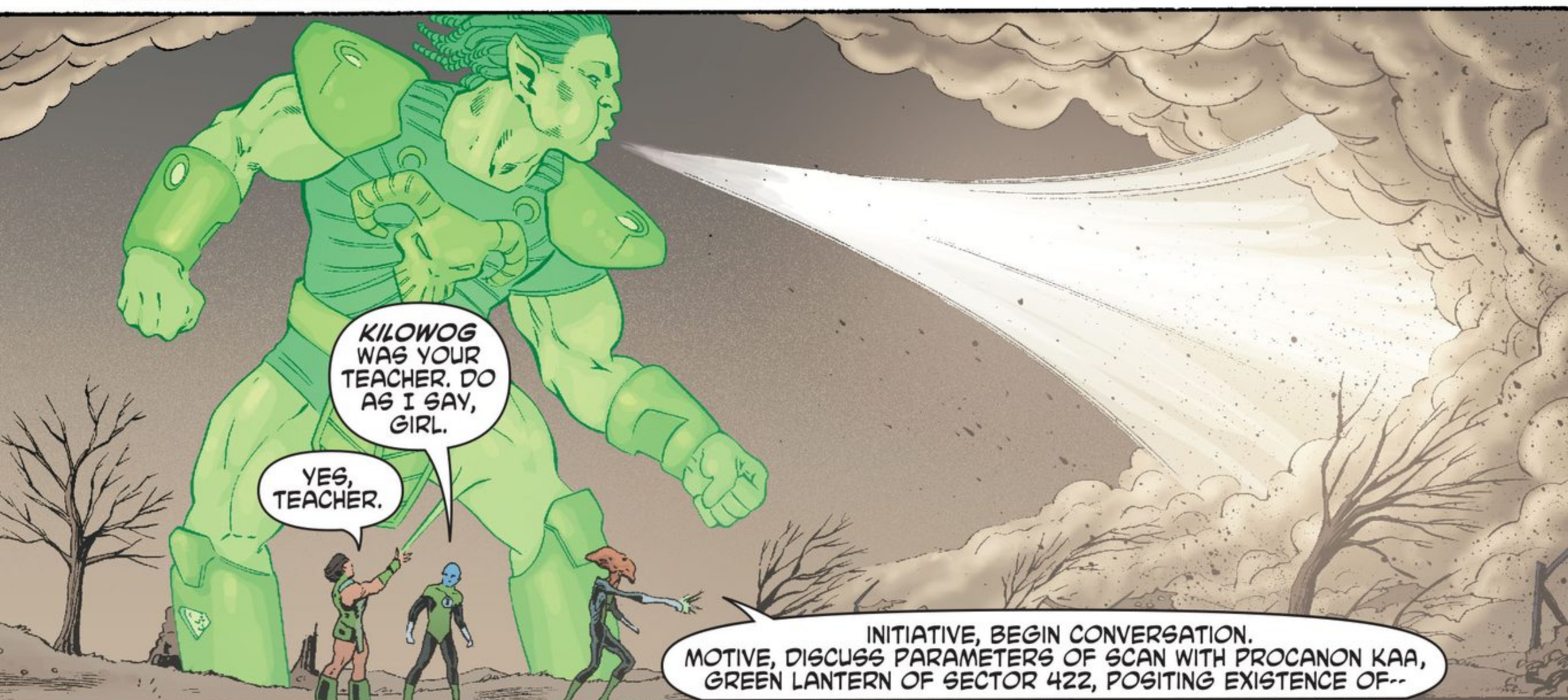
THULKA RE, PLEASE SCAN FOR SURVIVORS IN ALL DIRECTIONS.

KHO KHARHI, CLEAR SOME OF THIS PARTICULATE MATTER. IT IMPEDES VISUAL ACUITY.

YES, TEACHER.

AND YOU DON'T *BOW* TO A FELLOW CORPSMAN, GREEN LANTERN.

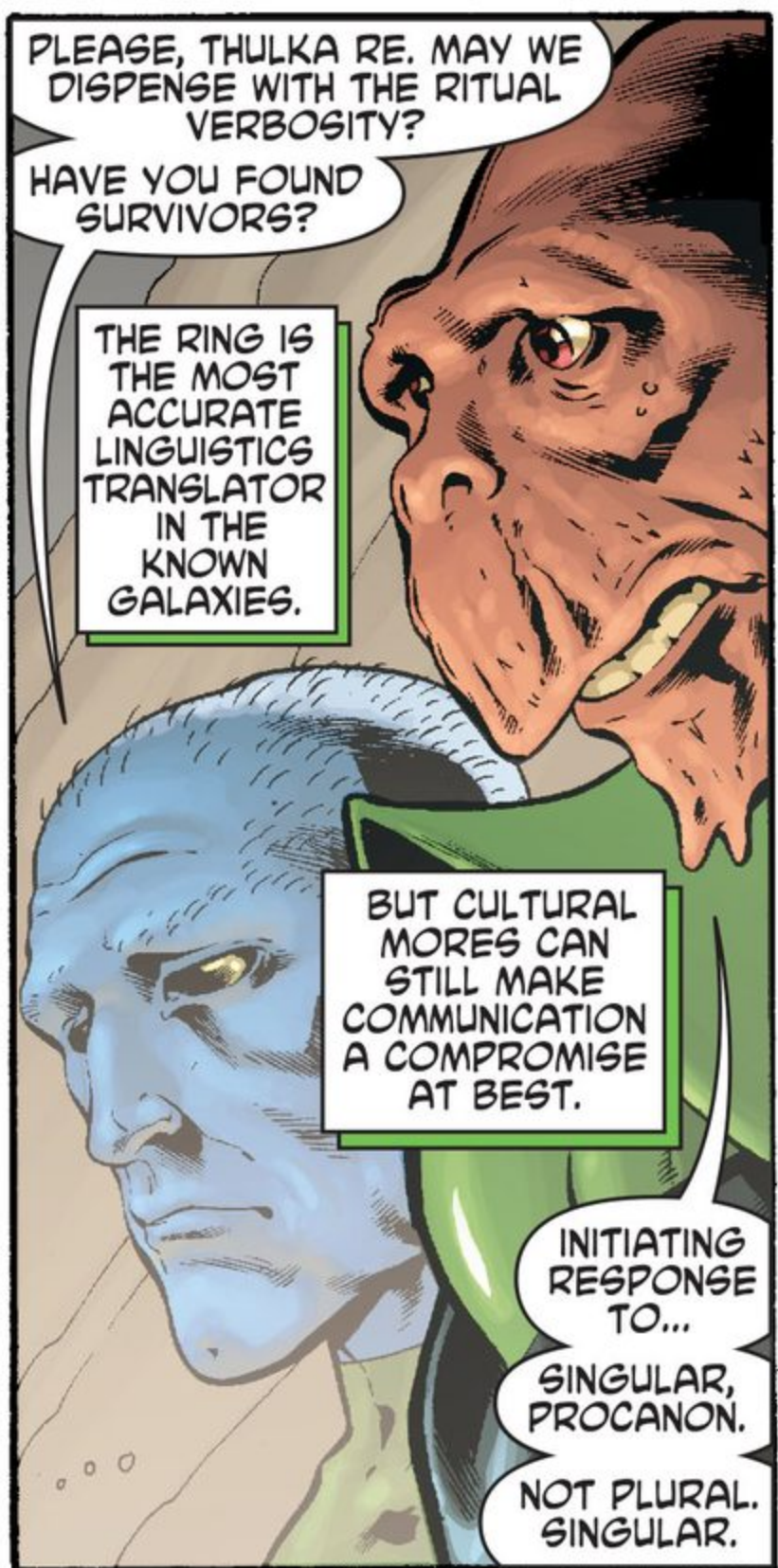
YES, TEACHER.



KILOWOG WAS YOUR TEACHER. DO AS I SAY, GIRL.

YES, TEACHER.

INITIATIVE, BEGIN CONVERSATION. MOTIVE, DISCUSS PARAMETERS OF SCAN WITH PROCANON KAA, GREEN LANTERN OF SECTOR 422, POSITING EXISTENCE OF--

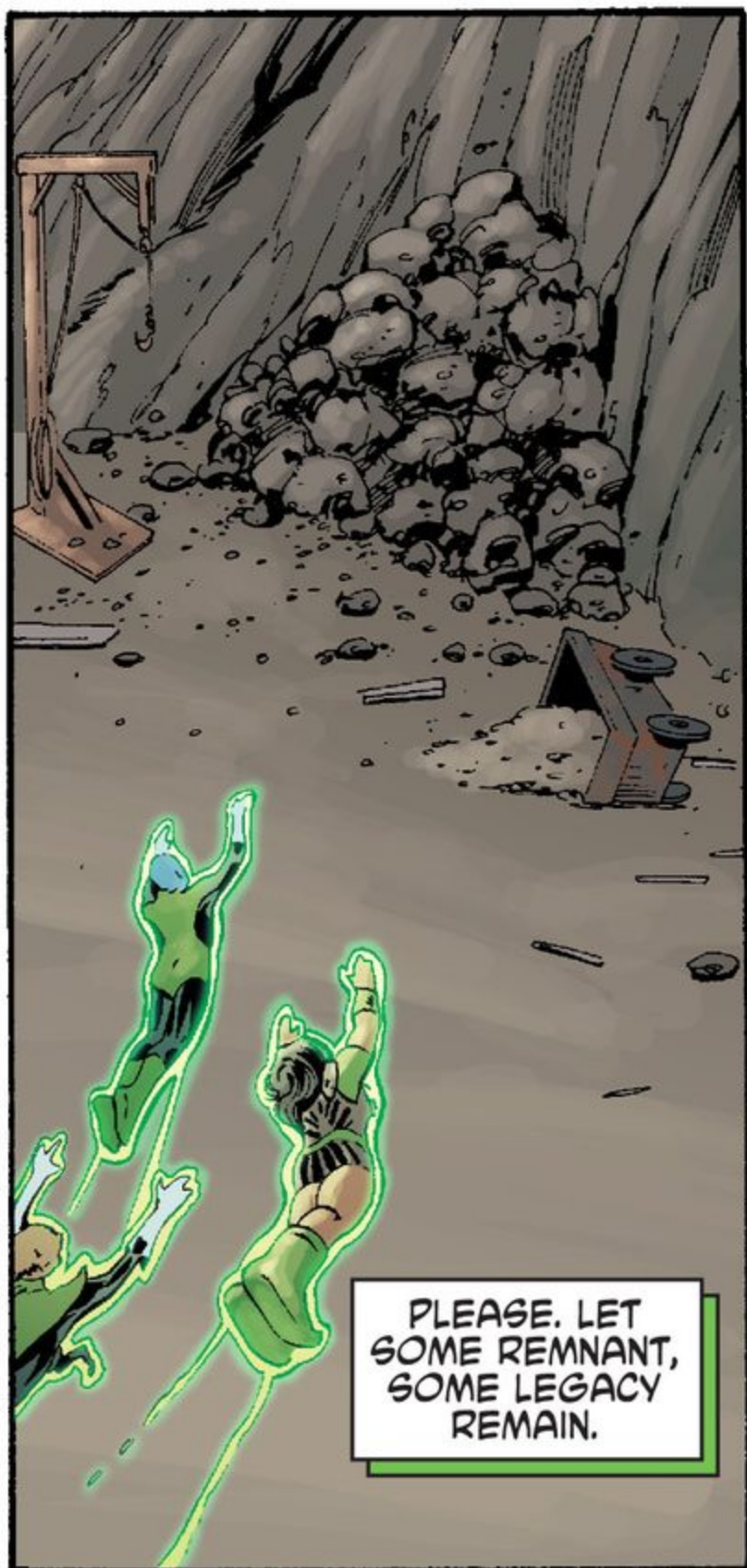


PLEASE, THULKA RE. MAY WE DISPENSE WITH THE RITUAL VERBOSITY? HAVE YOU FOUND SURVIVORS?

THE RING IS THE MOST ACCURATE LINGUISTICS TRANSLATOR IN THE KNOWN GALAXIES.

BUT CULTURAL MORES CAN STILL MAKE COMMUNICATION A COMPROMISE AT BEST.

INITIATING RESPONSE TO... SINGULAR, PROCANON. NOT PLURAL. SINGULAR.



PLEASE. LET SOME REMNANT, SOME LEGACY REMAIN.



KHO KHARHI IS THE DAUGHTER OF THE KHUND AMBASSADOR WHO ORDERED MY PLANET'S DESTRUCTION.

HER SENSE OF JUSTICE WAS CONSIDERED A MENTAL ILLNESS ON HER HOMEWORLD.

SHE HASN'T SEEN HER ENTIRE WORLD DESTROYED. I WISH I COULD WARN HER ABOUT COMPASSION'S TRUE COST.

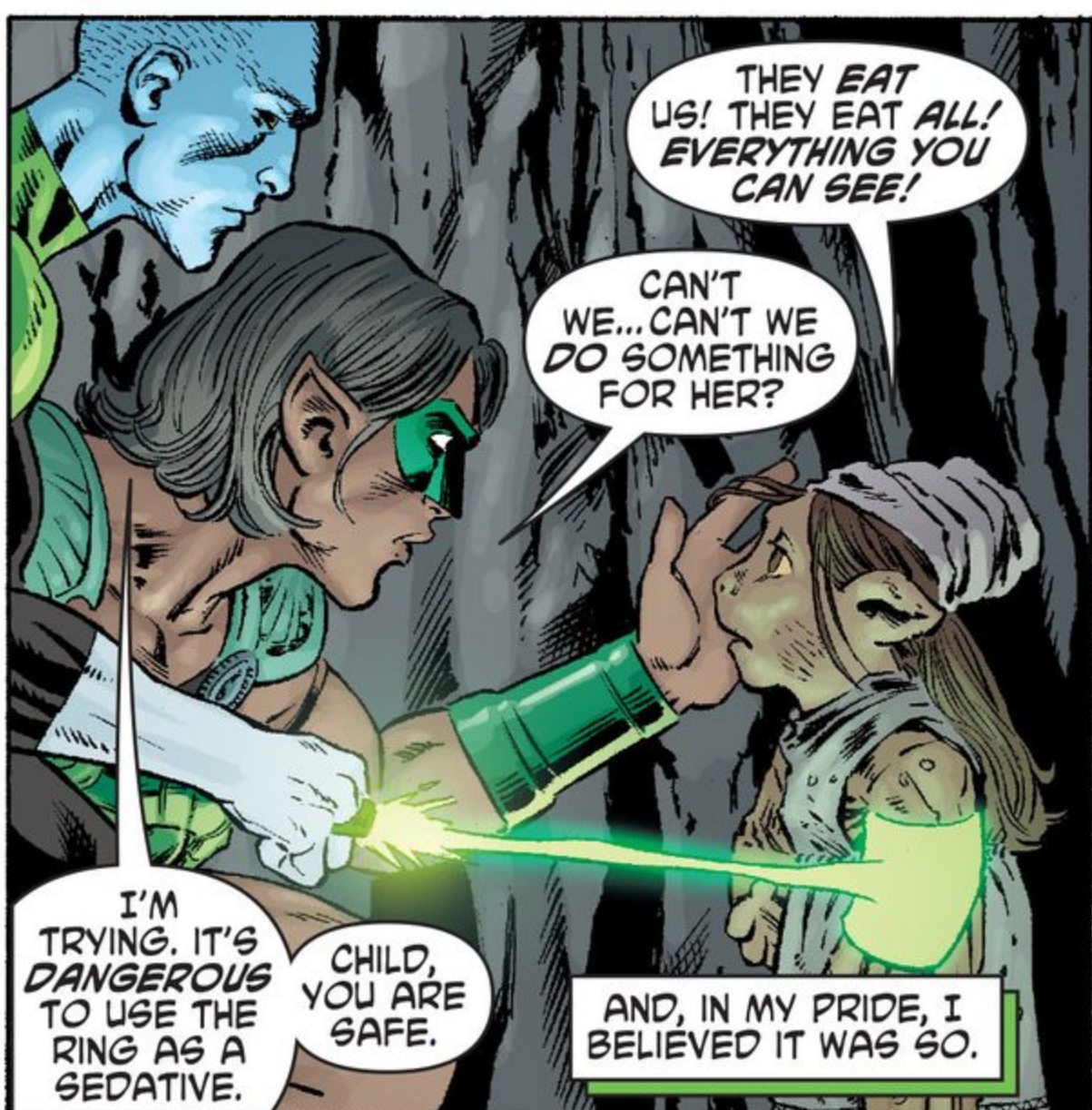


IT IS FEELING THE PAIN OF OTHERS AS KEENLY AS YOUR OWN.

AND WE DON'T NEED THE RING TO COMMUNICATE THAT.

NAY! NAY!

THE SERPENTS!
WE ARE THEIR FOOD! WE ARE THEIR FOOD!



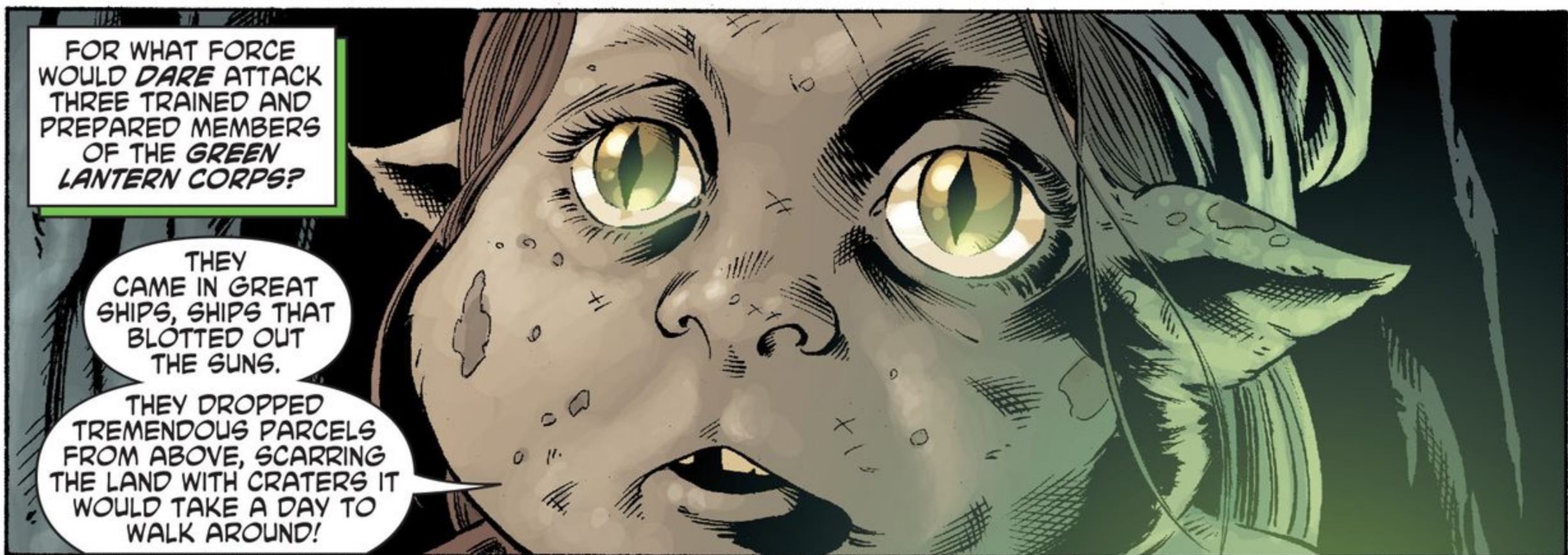
THEY EAT US! THEY EAT ALL! EVERYTHING YOU CAN SEE!

CAN'T WE... CAN'T WE DO SOMETHING FOR HER?

I'M TRYING. IT'S DANGEROUS TO USE THE RING AS A SEDATIVE.

CHILD, YOU ARE SAFE.

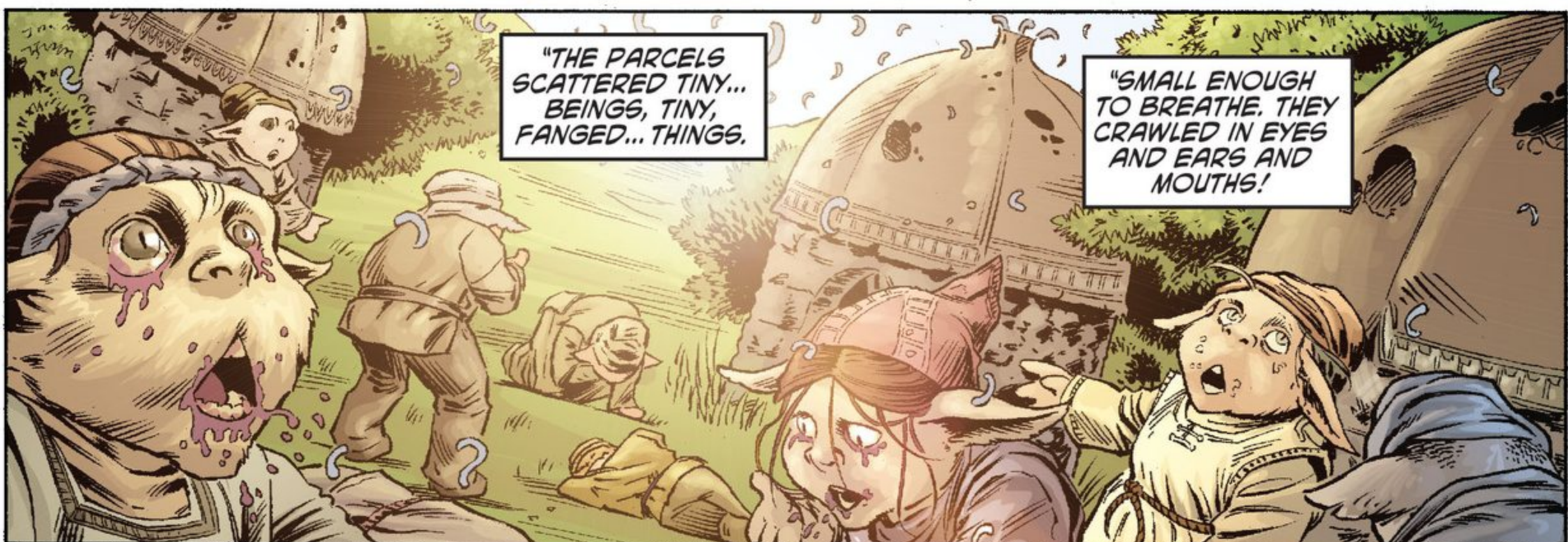
AND, IN MY PRIDE, I BELIEVED IT WAS SO.



FOR WHAT FORCE WOULD *DARE* ATTACK THREE TRAINED AND PREPARED MEMBERS OF THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS?

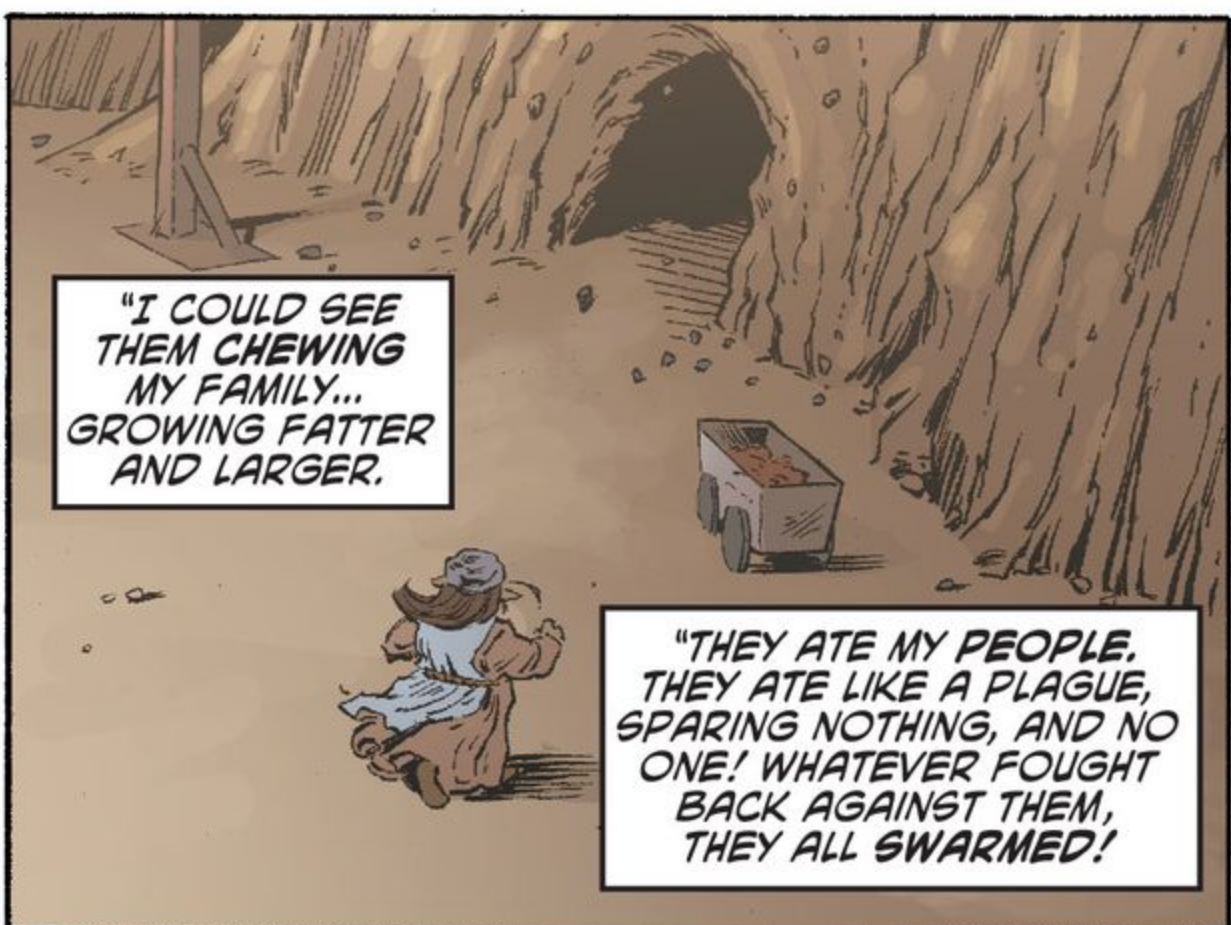
THEY CAME IN GREAT SHIPS, SHIPS THAT BLOTTED OUT THE SUNS.

THEY DROPPED TREMENDOUS PARCELS FROM ABOVE, SCARRING THE LAND WITH CRATERS IT WOULD TAKE A DAY TO WALK AROUND!



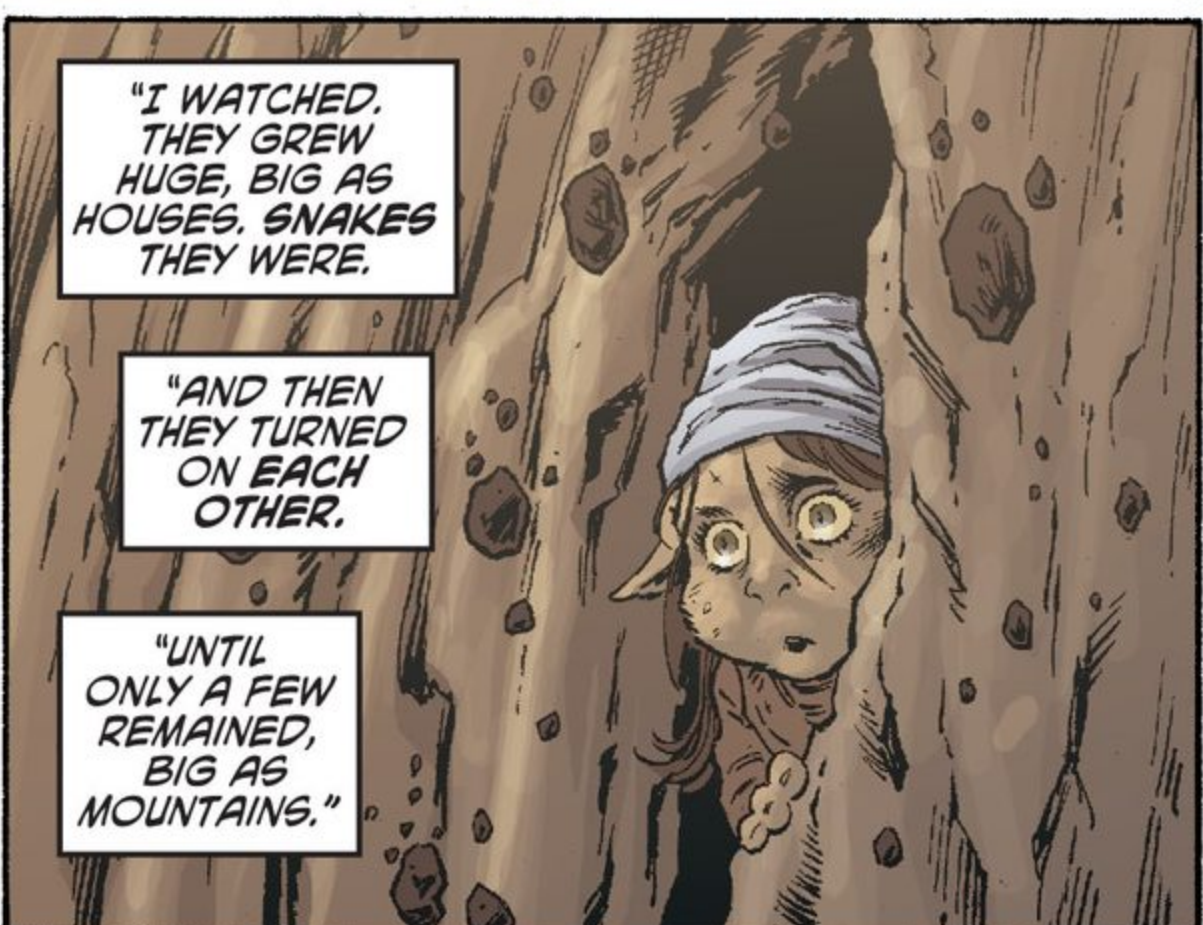
"THE PARCELS SCATTERED TINY... BEINGS, TINY, FANGED... THINGS.

"SMALL ENOUGH TO BREATHE. THEY CRAWLED IN EYES AND EARS AND MOUTHS!"



"I COULD SEE THEM CHEWING MY FAMILY... GROWING FATTER AND LARGER.

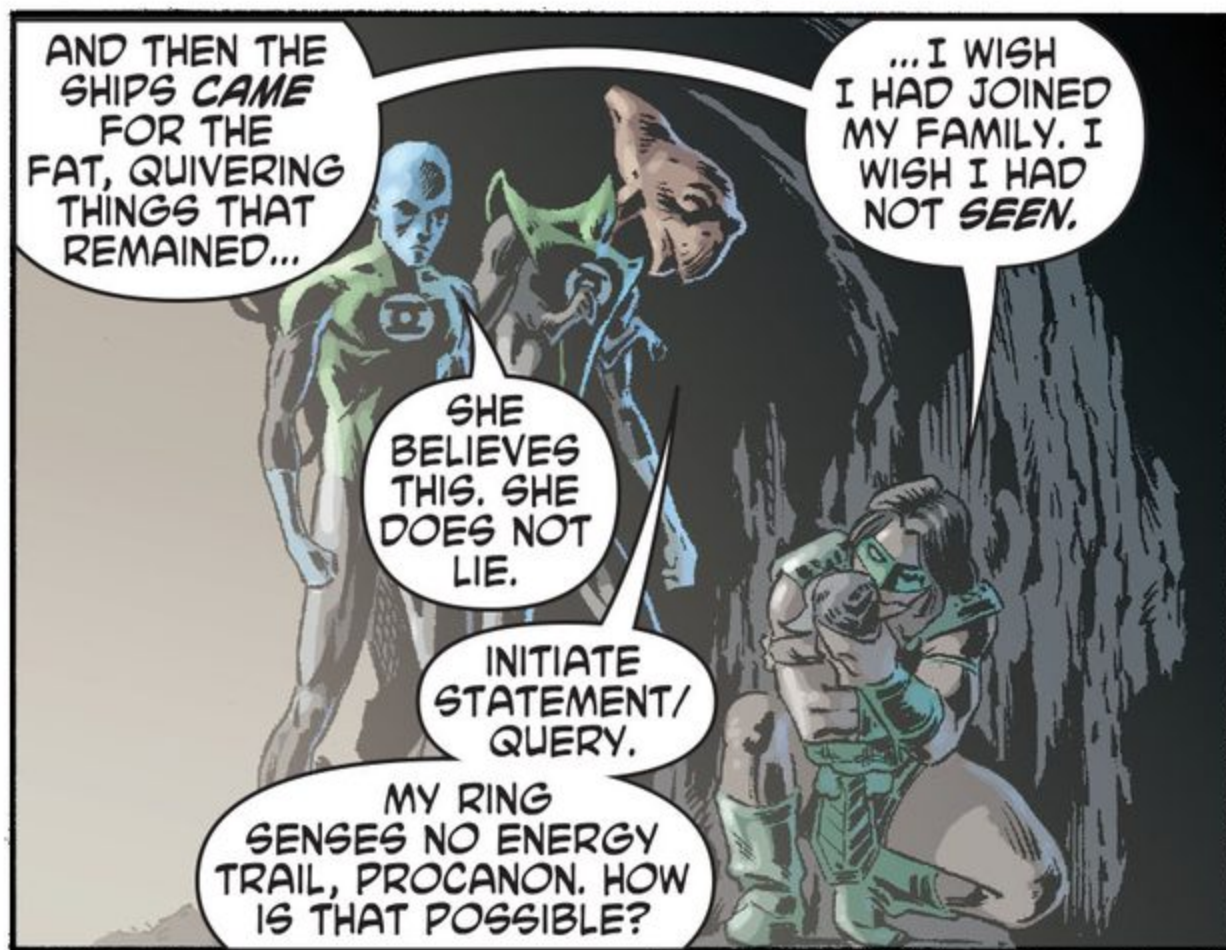
"THEY ATE MY PEOPLE. THEY ATE LIKE A PLAGUE, SPARING NOTHING, AND NO ONE! WHATEVER FOUGHT BACK AGAINST THEM, THEY ALL SWARMED!"



"I WATCHED. THEY GREW HUGE, BIG AS HOUSES. SNAKES THEY WERE.

"AND THEN THEY TURNED ON EACH OTHER.

"UNTIL ONLY A FEW REMAINED, BIG AS MOUNTAINS."



AND THEN THE SHIPS CAME FOR THE FAT, QUIVERING THINGS THAT REMAINED...

SHE BELIEVES THIS. SHE DOES NOT LIE.

INITIATE STATEMENT/QUERY.

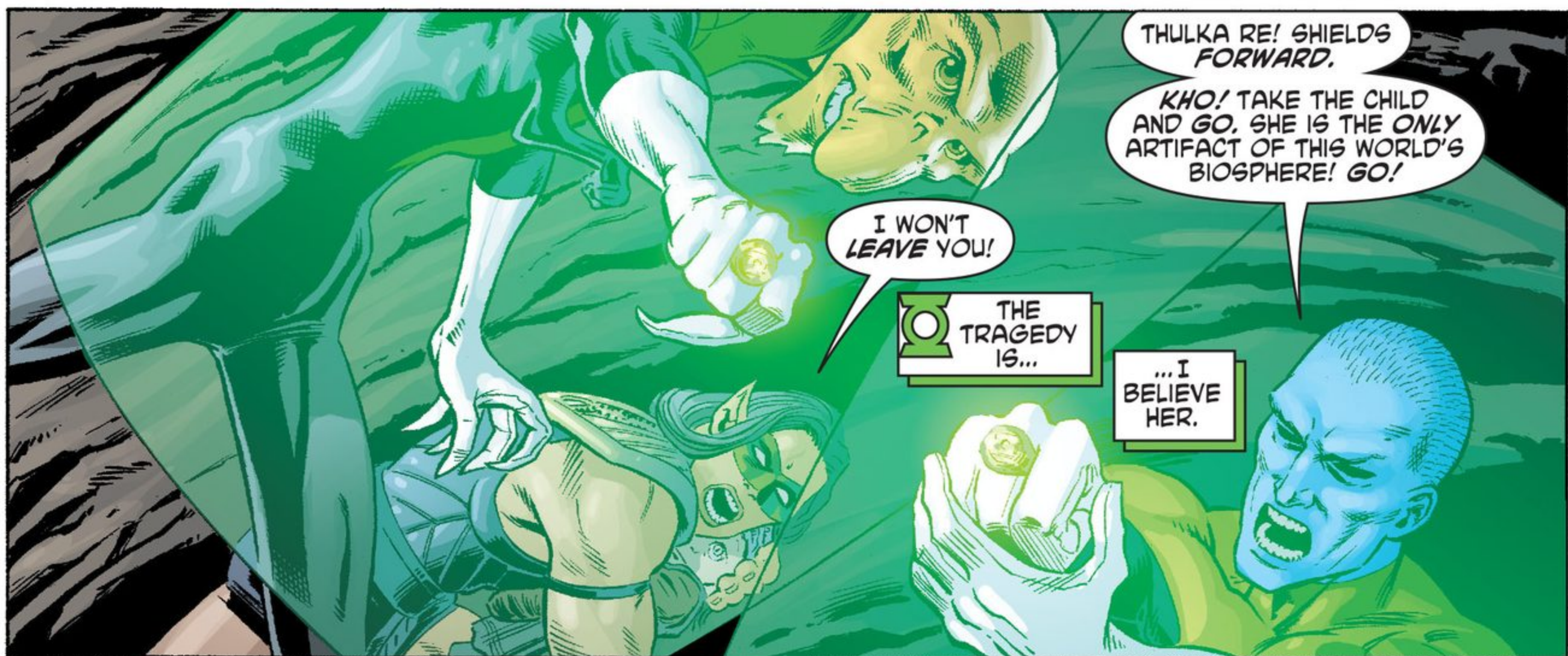
MY RING SENGES NO ENERGY TRAIL, PROCANON. HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?

... I WISH I HAD JOINED MY FAMILY. I WISH I HAD NOT SEEN.



OH. THAT'S THEM.

THEY'RE COMING BACK.



THULKA RE! SHIELDS FORWARD.

KHO! TAKE THE CHILD AND GO. SHE IS THE ONLY ARTIFACT OF THIS WORLD'S BIOSPHERE! GO!

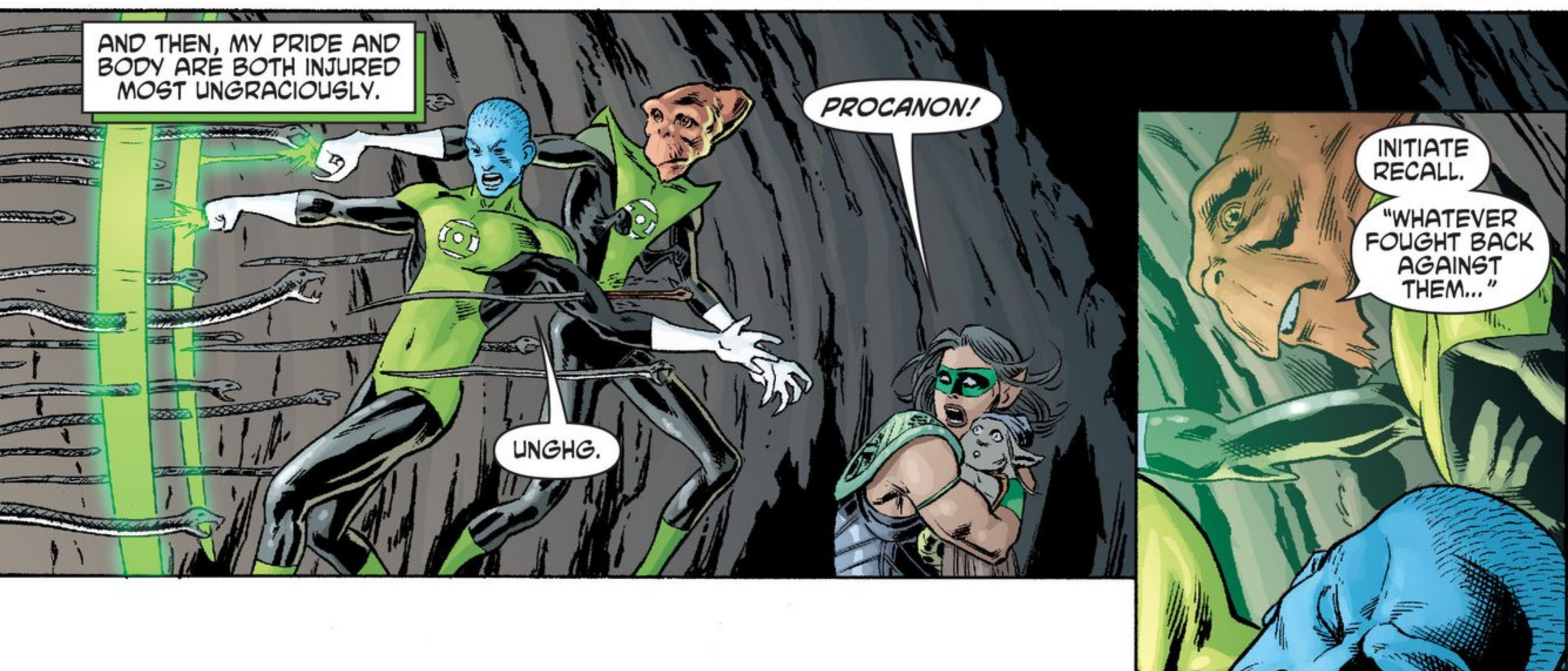
I WON'T LEAVE YOU!

THE TRAGEDY IS...

... I BELIEVE HER.



COURAGE, LANTERNS. COURAGE.



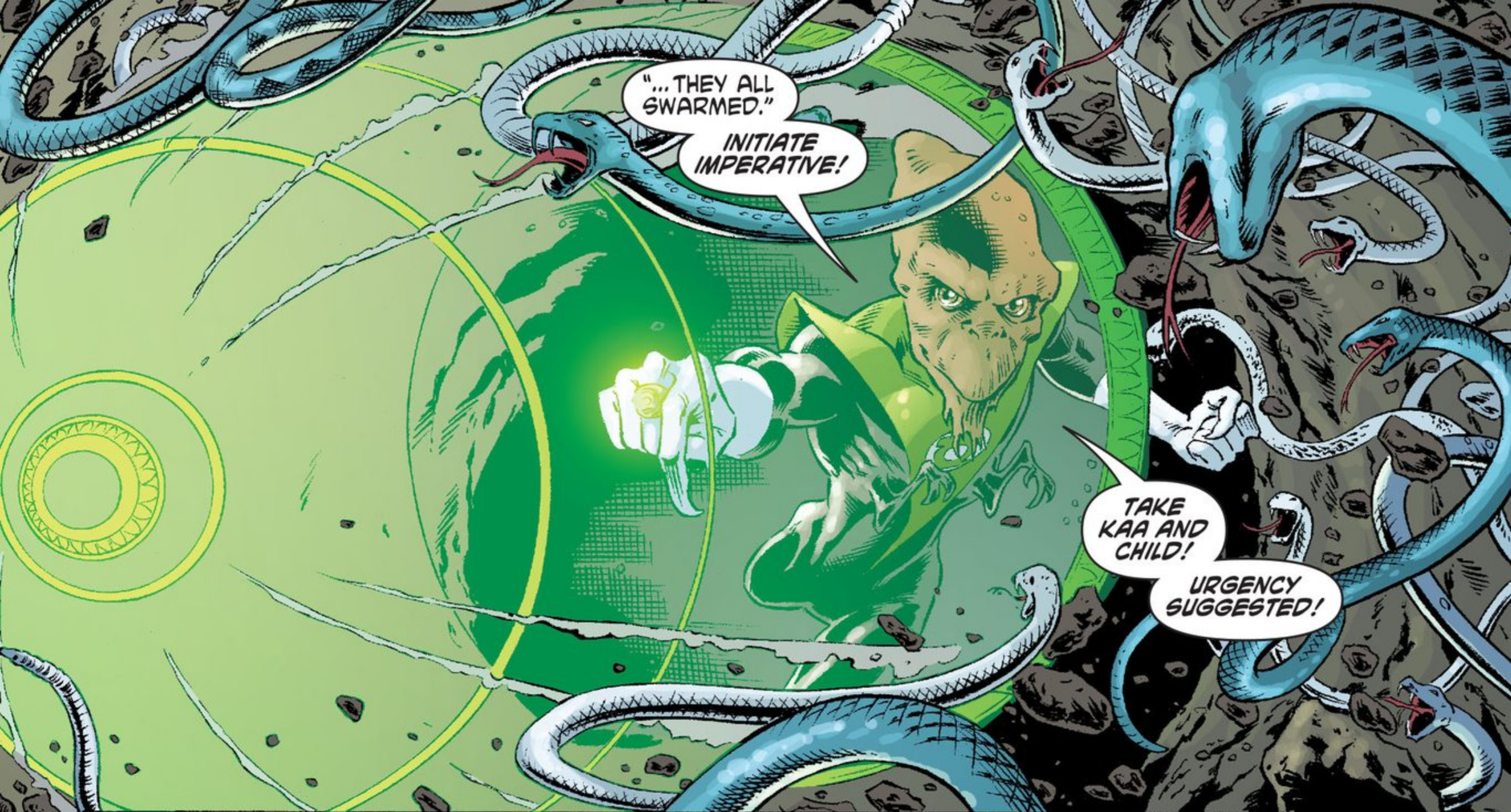
AND THEN, MY PRIDE AND BODY ARE BOTH INJURED MOST UNGRACIOUSLY.

PROCANON!

UNGHG.

INITIATE RECALL.

"WHATEVER FOUGHT BACK AGAINST THEM..."



"... THEY ALL
SWARMED."

INITIATE
IMPERATIVE!

TAKE
KAA AND
CHILD!

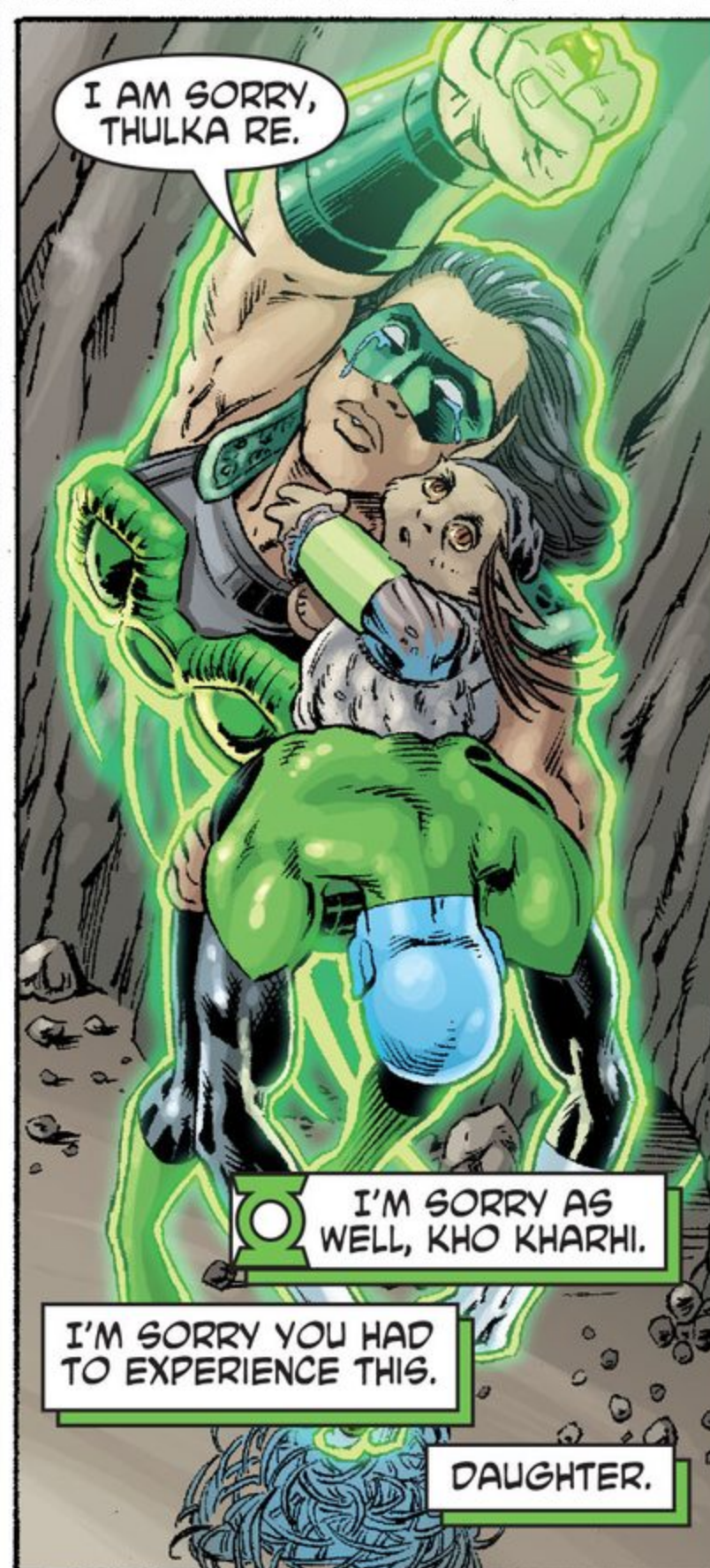
URGENCY
SUGGESTED!



OH.



INITIATE
PRAYER.



I AM SORRY,
THULKA RE.

I'M SORRY AS
WELL, KHO KHARHI.

I'M SORRY YOU HAD
TO EXPERIENCE THIS.

DAUGHTER.



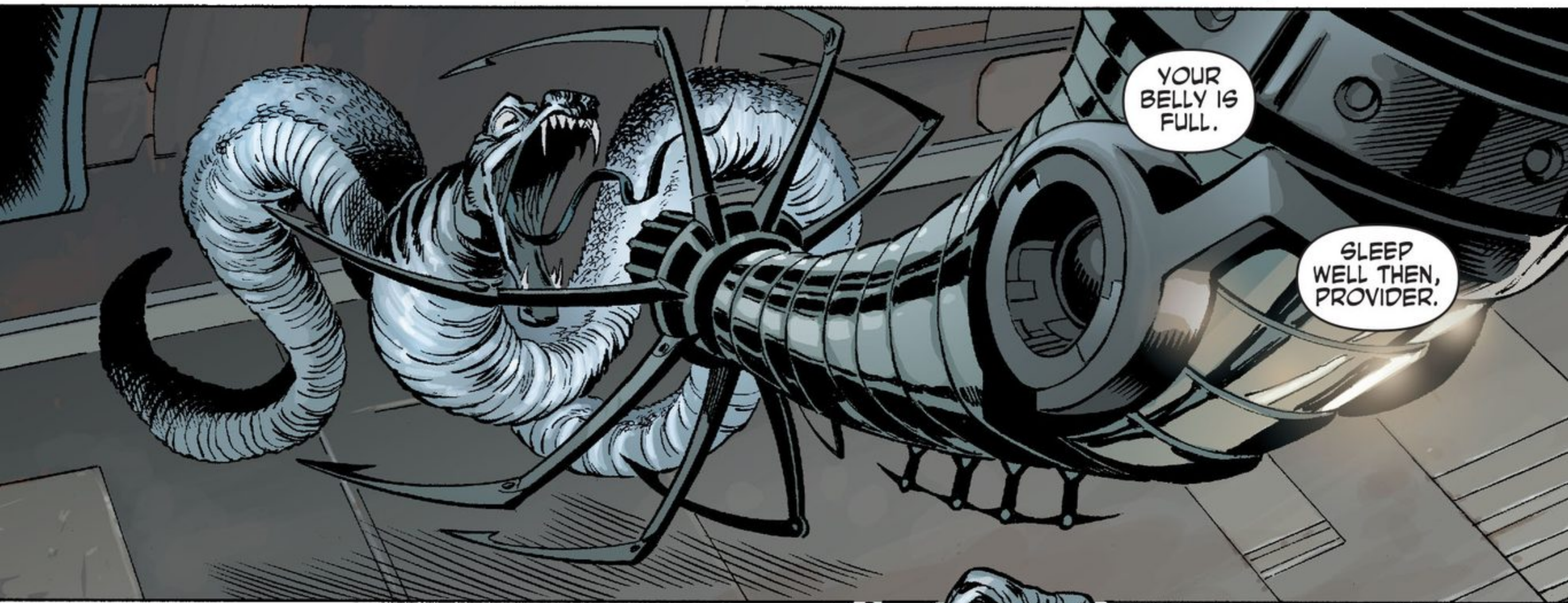
IT IS THE COST
OF COMPASSION.

RING
STATUS
REPORT: GREEN
LANTERN OF
SECTOR 423
DECEASED.



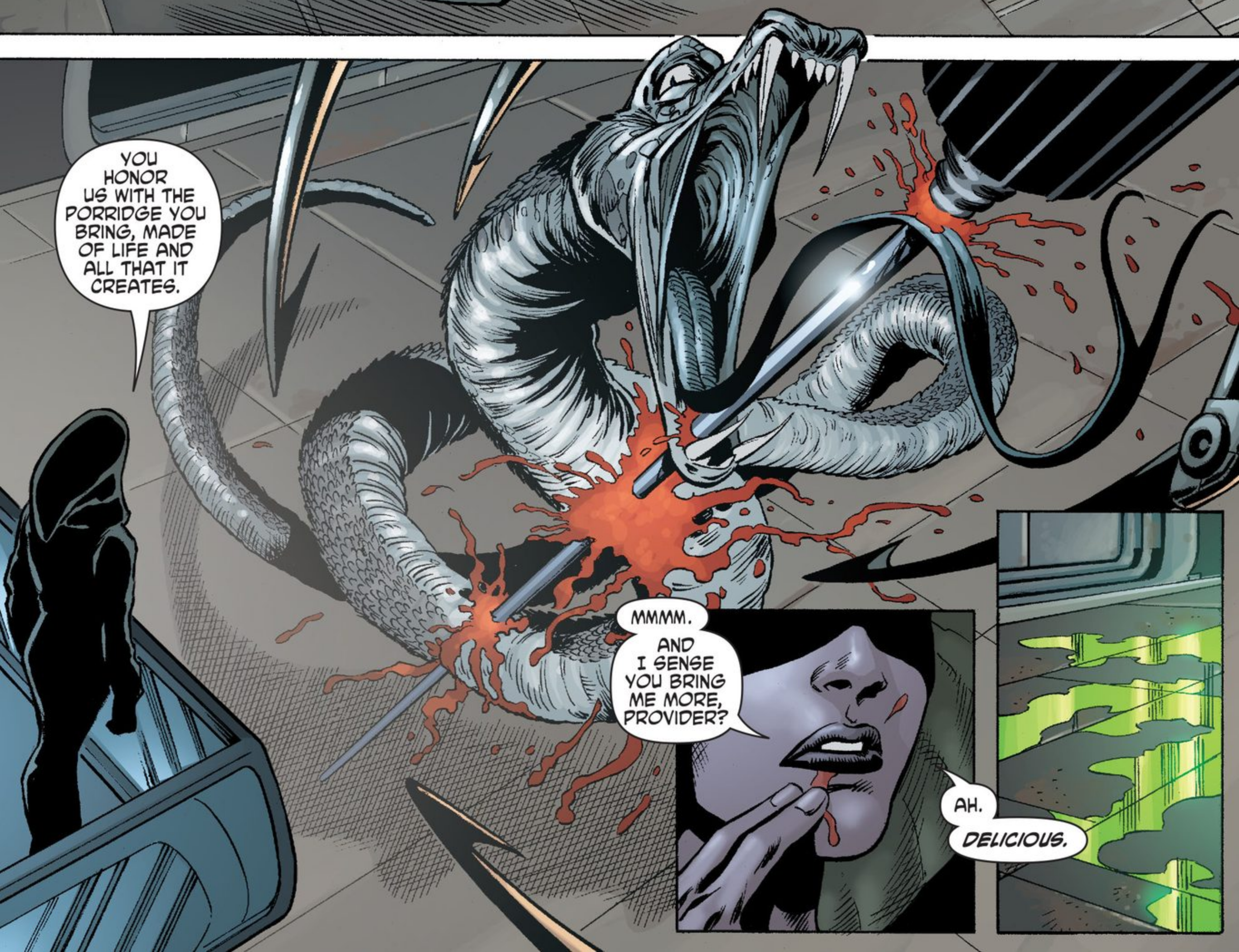
WELL DONE,
SERPENT-OF-
HEAVEN.

MAY
YOUR SLURRY
NOURISH US
ALL.



YOUR
BELLY IS
FULL.

SLEEP
WELL THEN,
PROVIDER.



YOU
HONOR
US WITH THE
PORRIDGE YOU
BRING, MADE
OF LIFE AND
ALL THAT IT
CREATES.

MMMM.
AND
I SENSE
YOU BRING
ME MORE,
PROVIDER?

AH.
DELICIOUS.

YOU DON'T
HAVE TO DO
THIS, YOU
KNOW.

DAYBREAK. NO
BETTER REASON
TO GO ON, TO
PERSEVERE WHAT
EXISTS IN NATURE.

IT'S FELT
A BIT LIKE
NIGHT WOULD
NEVER END.

SO MUCH PAIN.
SO MUCH GRIEF.

AND EVERY DAY
THE SUN COMES
UP AGAIN.

WARM,
ILLUMINATING AND
INDESCRIBABLY
LOVELY.

THAT BOUNTY, THAT
MAJESTY SHINES ON SAINT
AND SINNER ALIKE.

EVERY RISE OF THE
SUN IS A NEW CHANCE
TO CHANGE WAYS, TO
BE THE PERSON WE'D
ALWAYS HOPED WE
COULD BE.

MANY D.M.A.
AGENTS WERE
KILLED HERE,
STEVE.

AMAZONS
PAY THEIR
DEBTS.

OUR CHANCE
TO BE
REBORN.

OUR CHANCE TO BREATHE
AIR AS REINVENTED BEINGS.

IT IS
OUR GIFT
FROM THE
HEAVENS.

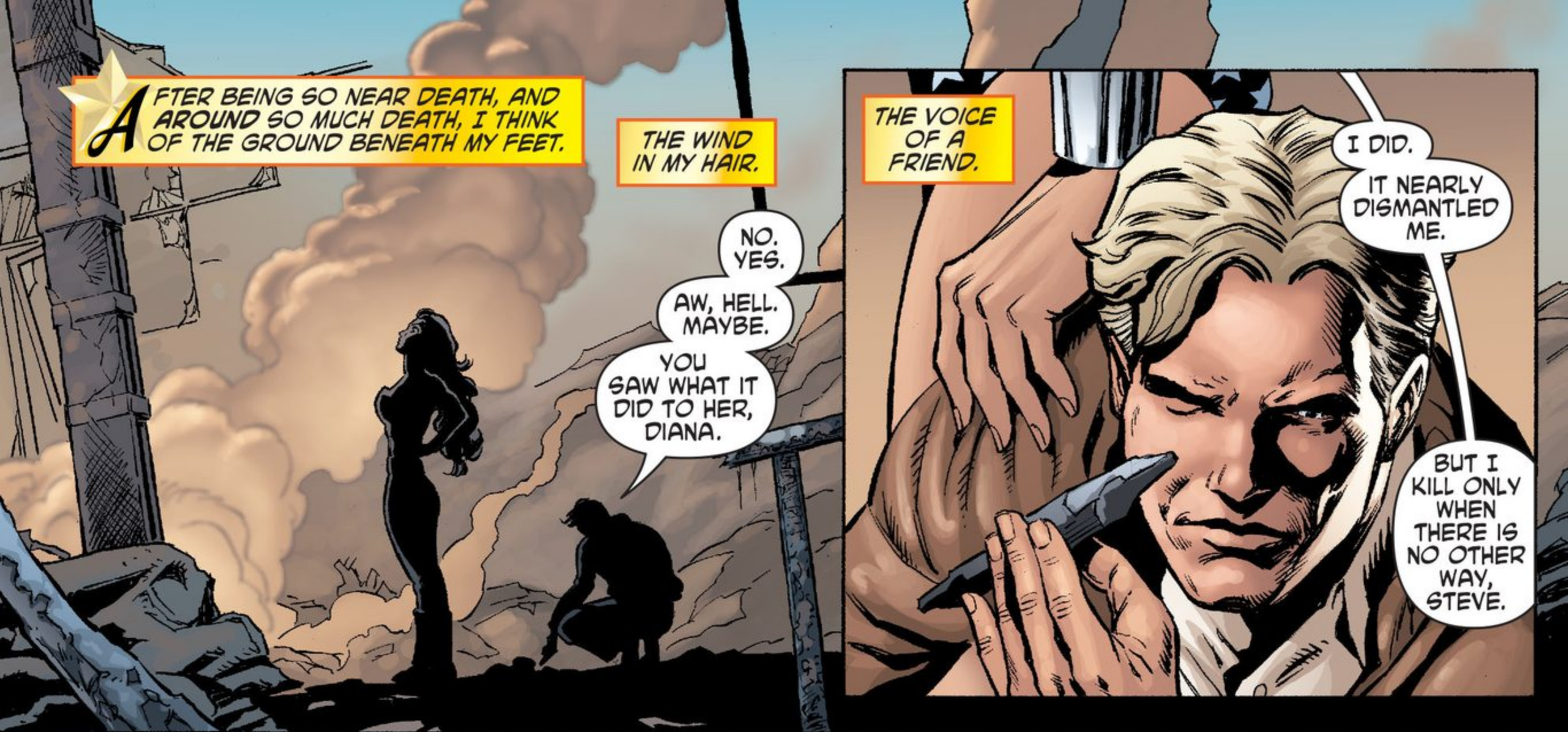
THEY
EVER FIND
THAT... GENOCIDE?
THEY EVER
FIND ITS BODY,
PRINCESS?

NO. WE
TRIED,
BUT... NO.

ETTA... SHE SEEMS
LIKE HER OLD SELF, DIANA.
BUT I DON'T WANT THAT
THING COMING BACK.

STEVE,
IF YOU ARE...

IF YOU'RE
ASKING ME TO
KILL IT...



AFTER BEING SO NEAR DEATH, AND AROUND SO MUCH DEATH, I THINK OF THE GROUND BENEATH MY FEET.

THE WIND IN MY HAIR.

THE VOICE OF A FRIEND.

I DID.

IT NEARLY DISMANTLED ME.

BUT I KILL ONLY WHEN THERE IS NO OTHER WAY, STEVE.

NO. YES.

AW, HELL. MAYBE.

YOU SAW WHAT IT DID TO HER, DIANA.

I THINK OF EVERY REASON THERE IS TO LIVE.

MOTHERS, AND SISTERS, AND GORILLAS, AND CAKE.

FLYING.

I KNOW THAT. I KNOW THAT.

JUST... KEEP LOOKING, OKAY?

WE'RE REOPENING THE D.M.A. YOU STILL HAVE A JOB.

AND I REMEMBER THOSE WHO SACRIFICED.

I HAVE NO RIGHT TO BE ANYTHING LESS THAN ELATED BY EACH NEW DAY.

WE'RE GOING INTERNATIONAL. WE'LL BE UNDER U.N. MANDATE.

WANNA DON THE WHITE SUIT AGAIN, AGENT PRINCE?

I AM REMINDED OF THE PRAYER I MOST BELIEVE IN.

GODS, THANK YOU FOR MY TIME ON THIS EARTH.

DESPITE ALL, THANK YOU.

LET ME THINK THAT OVER, STEVE.

AMAZONS PAY THEIR DEBTS, RIGHT?

SEEMS LIKE SOMEONE TOLD ME THAT ONCE.

BUT SOME SHADOWS
MANAGE TO BLANKET
EVEN THE CLEAREST
MORNINGS...

WHAT
IN GOD'S
NAME?

I WAS
ABOUT TO
ASK THE SAME
QUESTION IN
PLURAL.

THE GREEN SHIELD IS
ENGAGED OVER THE
CITY, CAPTAIN.

THANK YOU, CITIZEN
ZUSEN. AND THIS IS
THIS NATION'S
CAPITAL?

YES,
CAPTAIN.

PREPARE
THE FIRST
EGGS.

IS THAT...
SOMETHING
LEAGUE-
ISH?

DEFINITELY
NOT.

FRIENDLY?

I DON'T
KNOW, BUT...
HOW ODD.

IT CASTS
A GREEN
SHADOW.

LAUNCH
THE EGGS.

TIME TO
MAKE *DINNER*,
CITIZENS.



UH,
BOY.

7 UNNY, I WAS
ABOUT TO SAY
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT, TOO.

GET
DOWN!





GET
INSIDE.
TAKE
COVER.

BOOM

WHO ARE THESE
PEOPLE? THEY'RE
NOT KHUND OR
DOMINATOR.

I CAN DEFEND
THE CITY.

BUT
WHAT IF...

WHAT IF THIS
IS HAPPENING
EVERYWHERE?

NO
MATTER.

I WILL NOT
ALLOW AN
INVASION.



WE
APPEAR TO HAVE
SOME SORT OF GIFTED
CHAMPION AS A FIRST
RESPONDER,
CAPTAIN.

MM.
ARE HER ABILITIES
TECHNOLOGICAL?

IT DOES
NOT APPEAR
TO BE SO.

KEEP
AN EYE ON
HER. KEEP HER
AWAY FROM
THE SHIP.

I'LL
BEGIN THE
APPEASEMENT
RITUAL.

CAPTAIN...



I AGAIN
WISH TO LOG
MY OBJECTIONS
TO YOUR LEADING
THE SHORE PARTY.
IT IS SIMPLY TOO
DANGEROUS.

WHAT IS
THE PRIMARY
RULE OF OUR
SOCIETY,
ZUSEN?

"TO
SURVIVE, ONLY
THE FITTEST
DESERVE,"
CAPTAIN.



MY FAITHFUL
LIEUTENANT. FIRST
AMONG THE
LOYAL.

IT IS
MY DUTY.

BUT
THANK
YOU.



UNNGGH!

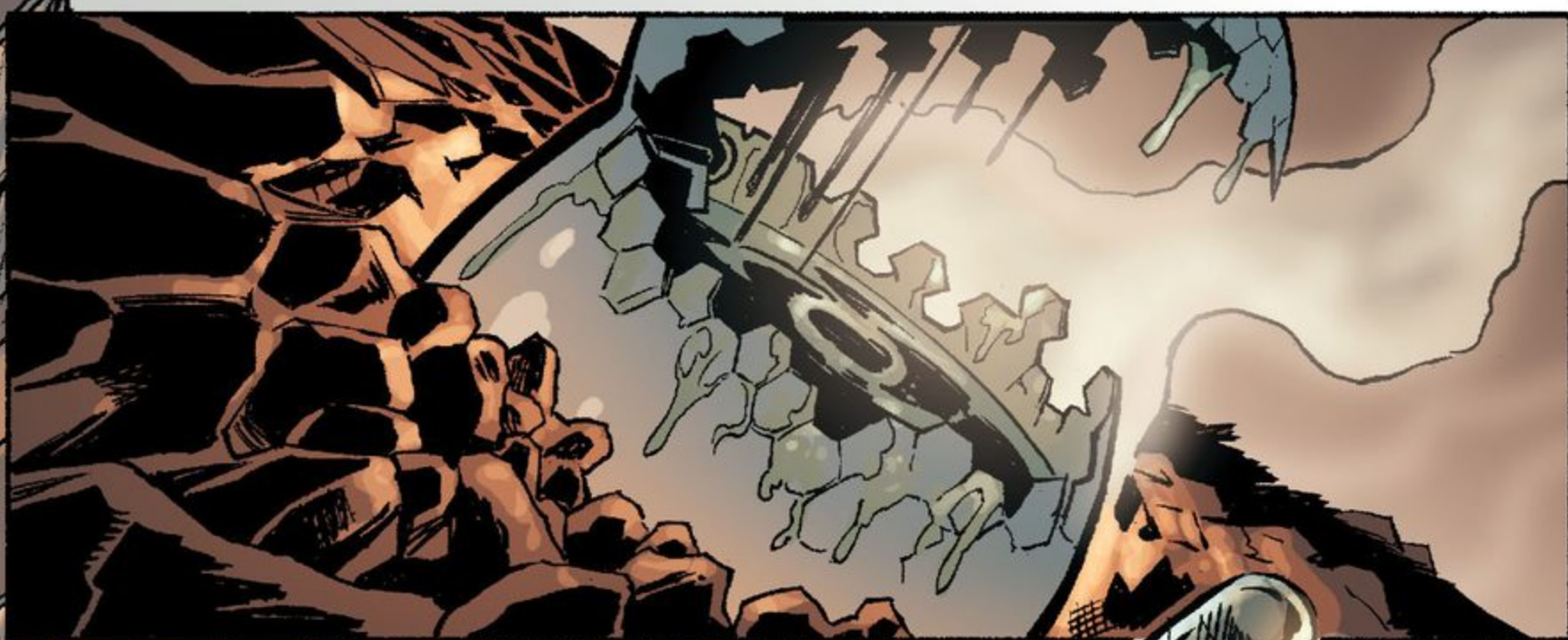
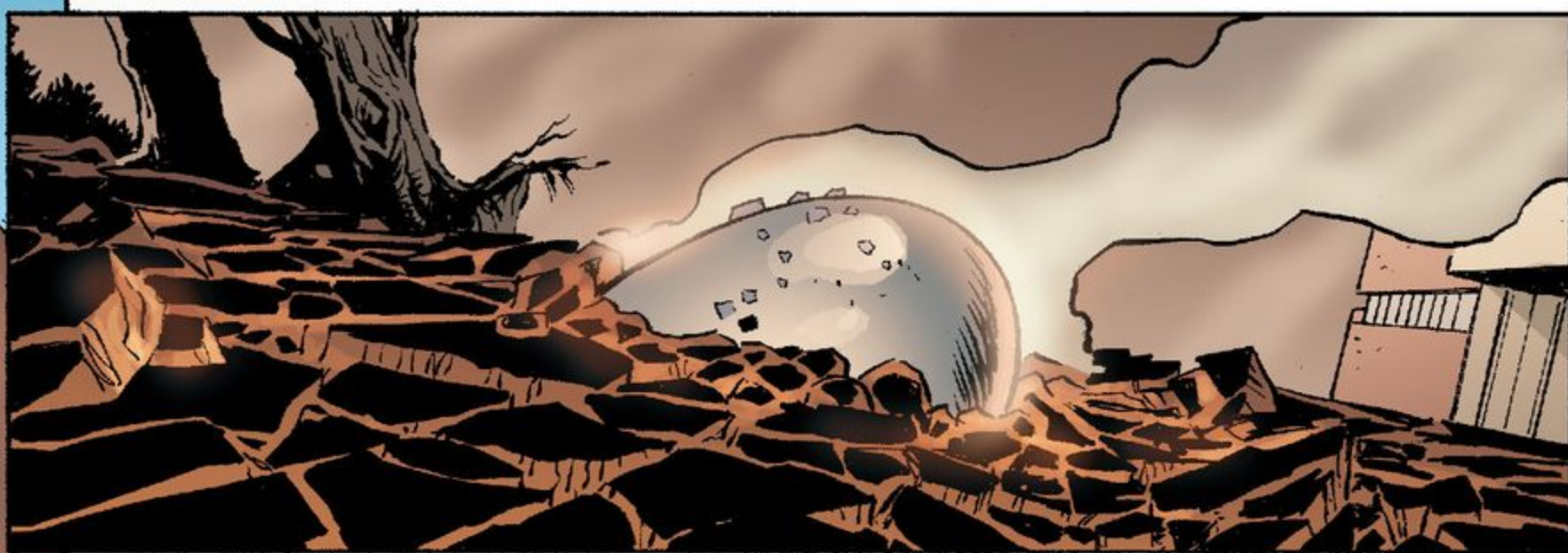


QUESTION MY
ORDERS AGAIN AND I'LL
FEED YOU TO THE SLURRY
MAKERS WITHOUT
HESITATION.

CLEAN
YOURSELF UP. CONN'S
YOURS. SEND DOWN
THE WARRIORS.

THHU...

THANK YOU,
CAPTAIN.



"STEVE, BABY,
I APPRECIATE
YOU RUSHING
HERE AND
TRYING TO
KEEP ME CALM
AND ALL..."

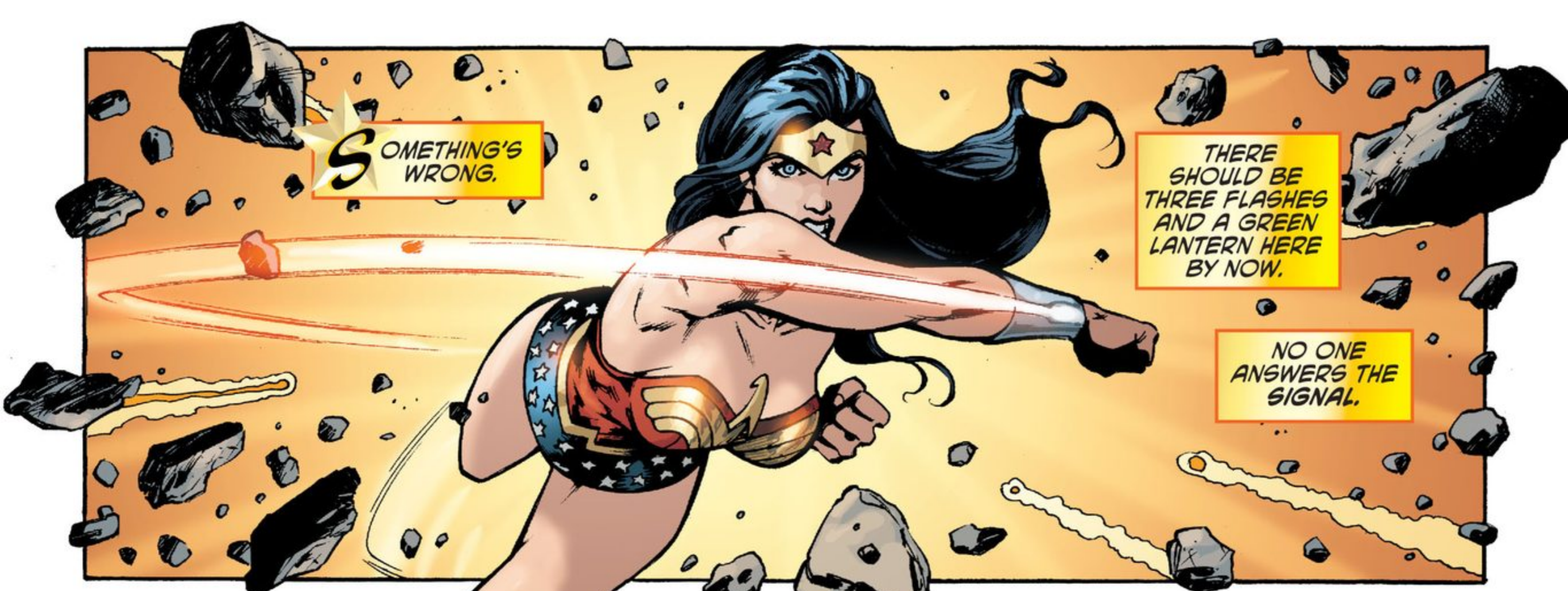


...BUT YOU THINK
YOU COULD MAYBE
GO GET MY GUNS
FOR ME?

OH,
AND...



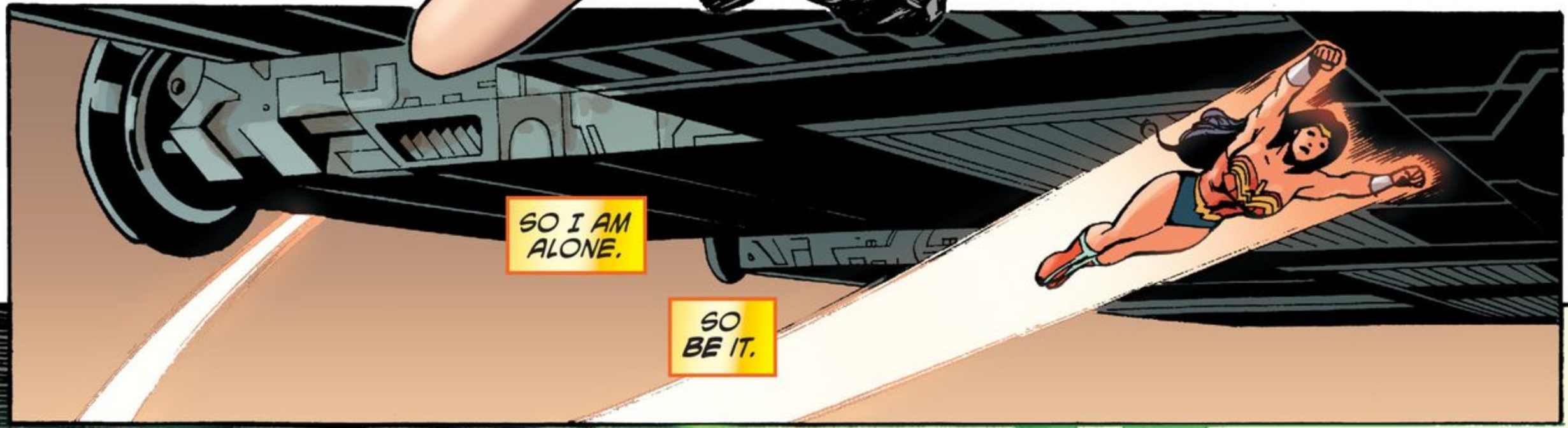
...MAYBE
SOME PANTS
WHILE YOU'RE
AT IT?



SOMETHING'S
WRONG.

THERE
SHOULD BE
THREE FLASHES
AND A GREEN
LANTERN HERE
BY NOW.

NO ONE
ANSWERS THE
SIGNAL.



SO I AM
ALONE.

SO
BE IT.



GUHHG!

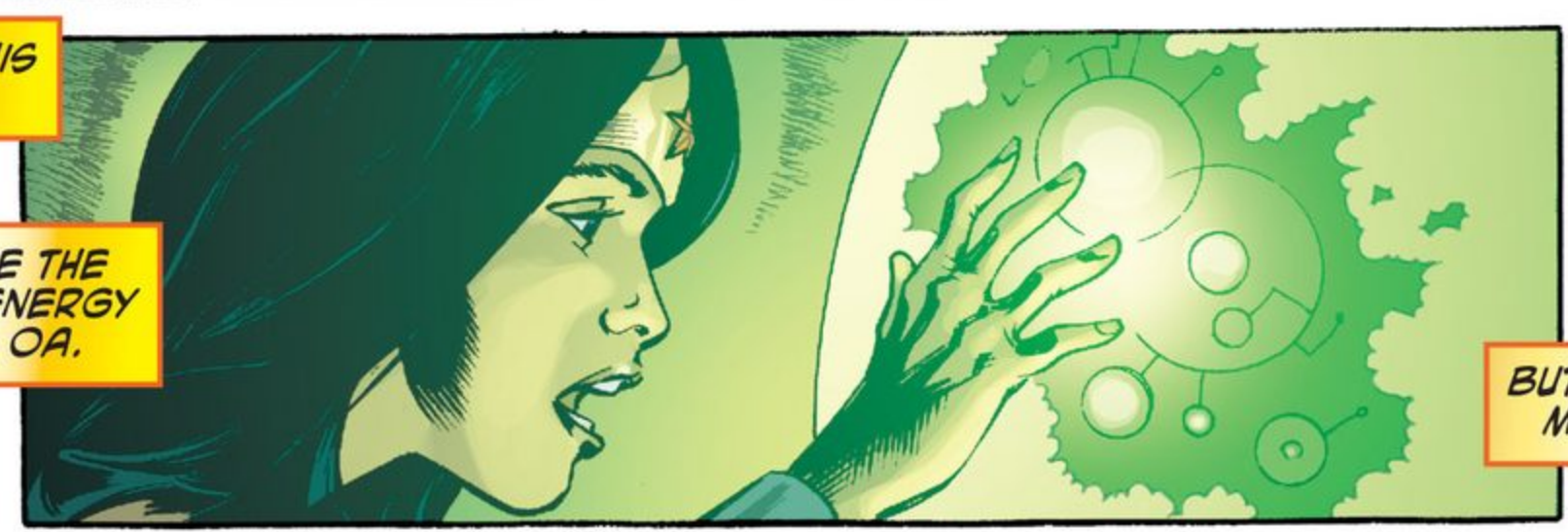
WE
SEEM TO BE
PRISONERS IN
OUR OWN CITY,
CHET.

THERE APPEARS
TO BE A DEFINITE BARRIER
AROUND THE CITY'S PERIMETER... POLICE
AND EMERGENCY SERVICES ARE TRYING
TO KEEP MOTORISTS FROM ATTEMPTING
TO RAM THEIR WAY OUT, AS SEVERAL
FATALITIES HAVE ALREADY
BEEN REPORTED.

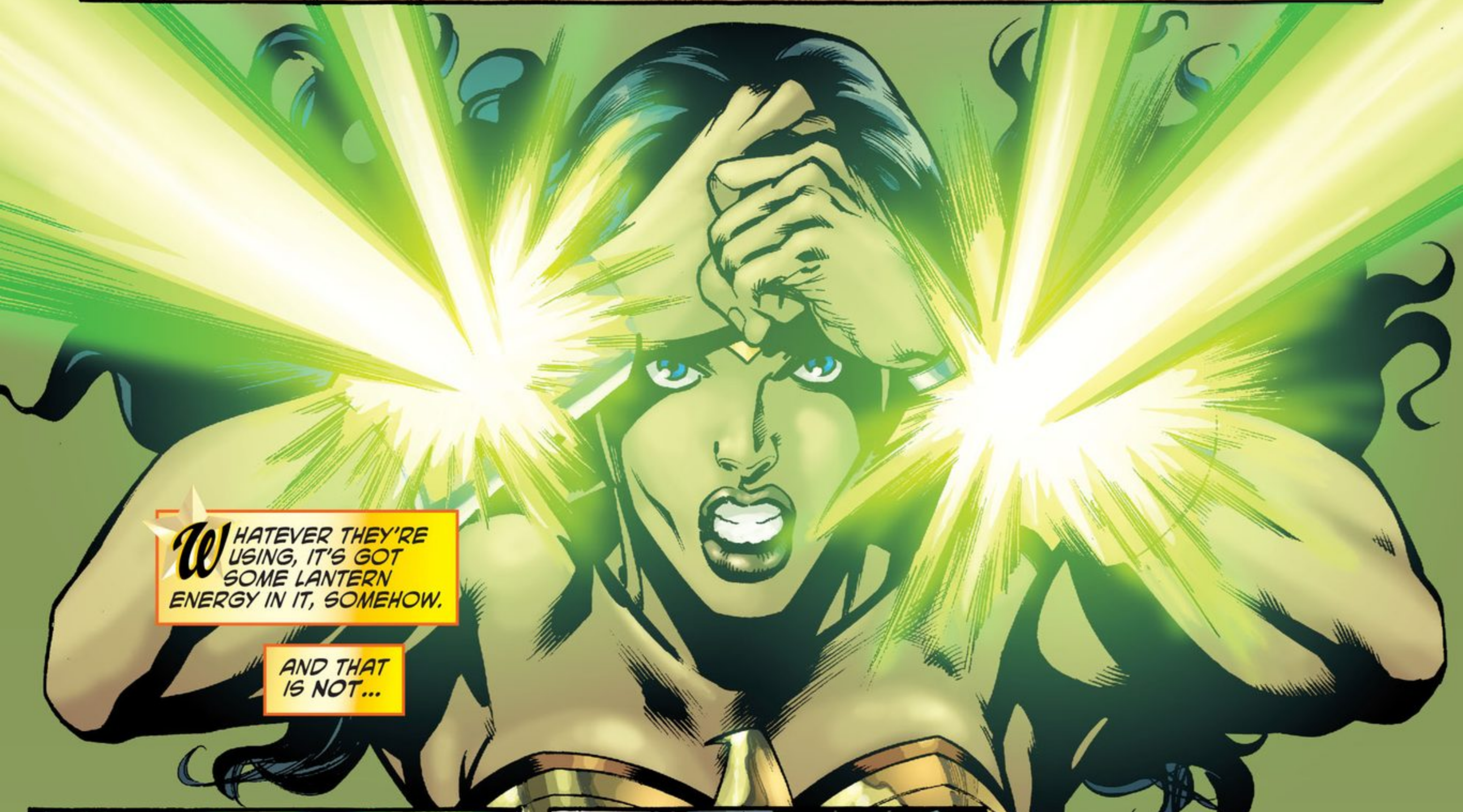
FOR A CITY
THAT'S ONLY RECENTLY
RECOVERED FROM A SERIES OF
RIOTS, THIS UNKNOWN WALL AND THE RADIO
SILENCE FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD IS
CAUSING A PANIC IN A POPULACE
ALREADY TERRORIZED. TANSIE
CHEN, WGBS NEWS.

I'VE SEEN THIS
BEFORE.

IT'S LIKE THE
GREEN ENERGY
FROM OA.



BUT... DIFFERENT.
MALEVOLENT.

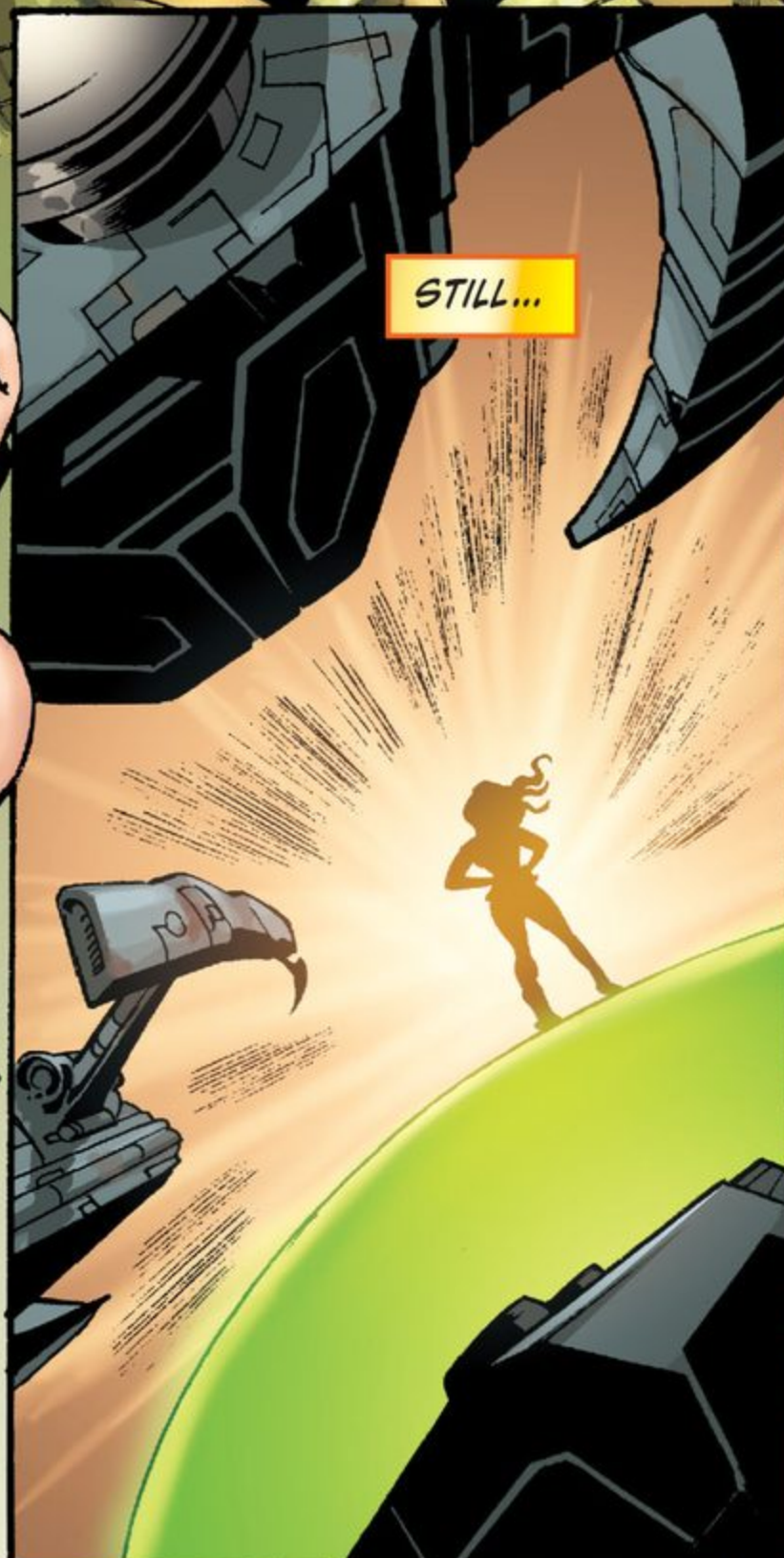


WHATEVER THEY'RE
USING, IT'S GOT
SOME LANTERN
ENERGY IN IT, SOMEHOW.

AND THAT
IS NOT...



... WELCOME
NEWS.



STILL...



... THE LEAST I
CAN DO IS GIVE
THEM A PROPER
WELCOME.

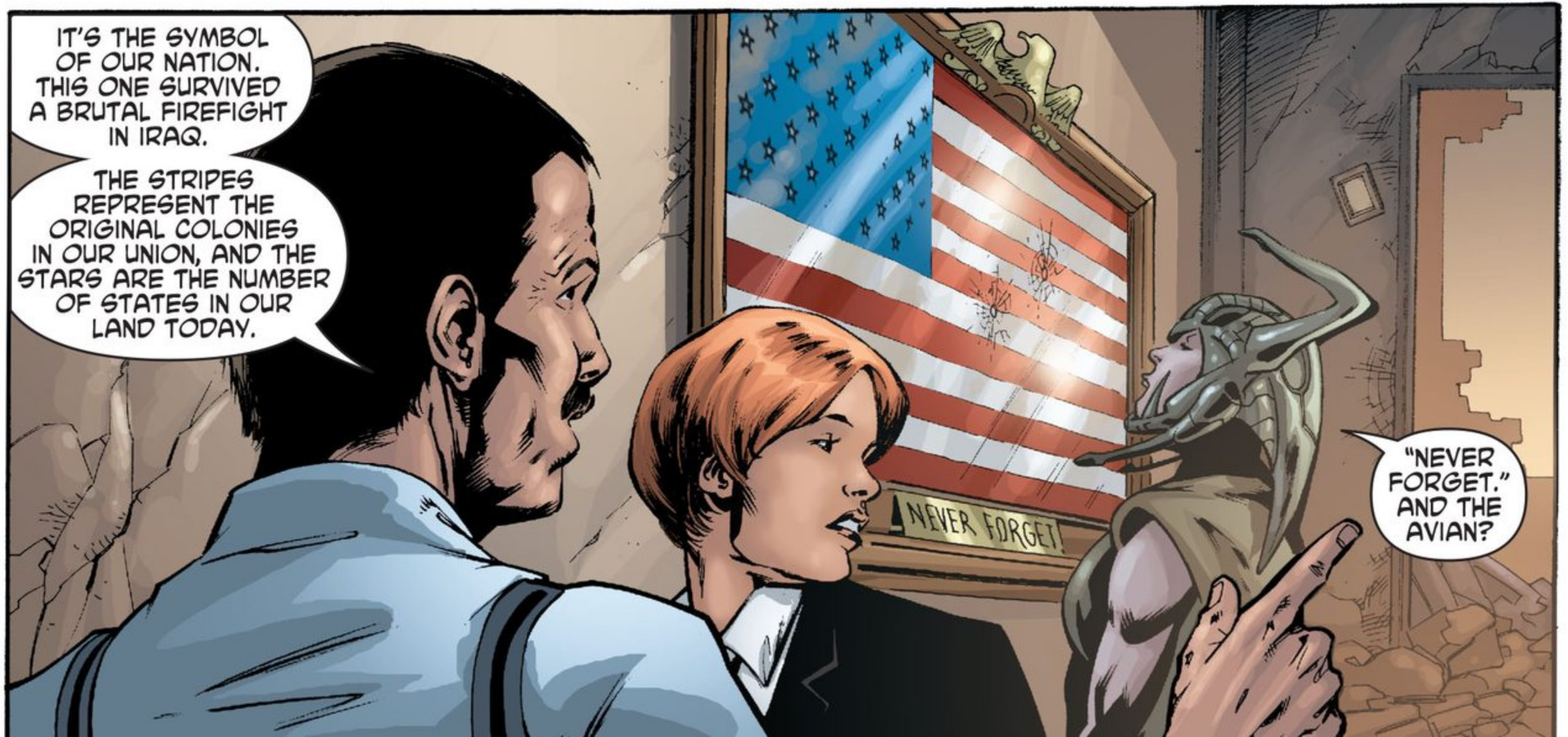


9 IT'S THE POLITE
THING TO DO.



MR. PRESIDENT,
WE HAVE TO GET TO
THE *BUNKERS*. YOUR
MILITARY ESCORT IS
ON ITS WAY.

PLEASE *MOVE*,
MR. PRESIDENT.





IT'S OUR NATIONAL BIRD. THE BALD EAGLE.

WHAT IS IT YOU WANT?!

HMMPH. A SNAKE-EATER, NO DOUBT. REPULSIVE.



YOUR WORLD IS MERELY FOOD FOR US. WHATEVER TECHNOLOGY YOU HAVE WILL EVENTUALLY BE ABSORBED INTO OUR OWN.

YOU ARE TO SELECT 100 OF THE MOST ACCOMPLISHED PEOPLE OF YOUR PLANET. THEY WILL COME WITH US AND BECOME CIVILIZED.

ALL WOMEN.



YOU WILL LIVE ON IN THEIR MEMORY.

YOU HAVE TWO HOURS TO SELECT YOUR SURVIVORS.

I'LL SHOOT. I'LL FIRE.



BLAM BLAM BLAM

HM.
NOT CITIZEN MATERIAL.



"NEVER FORGET."

WE OFFER YOU THAT CHANCE. TWO HOURS.



WELL,

WE KNOW
THEY DON'T
CARE MUCH
FOR PLAYING
FAIR.



THE MESSAGE
WAS DELIVERED,
CAPTAIN?

NEVER
MIND THAT.
IS THE THING IN
HOLD 17 STILL
SECURE?

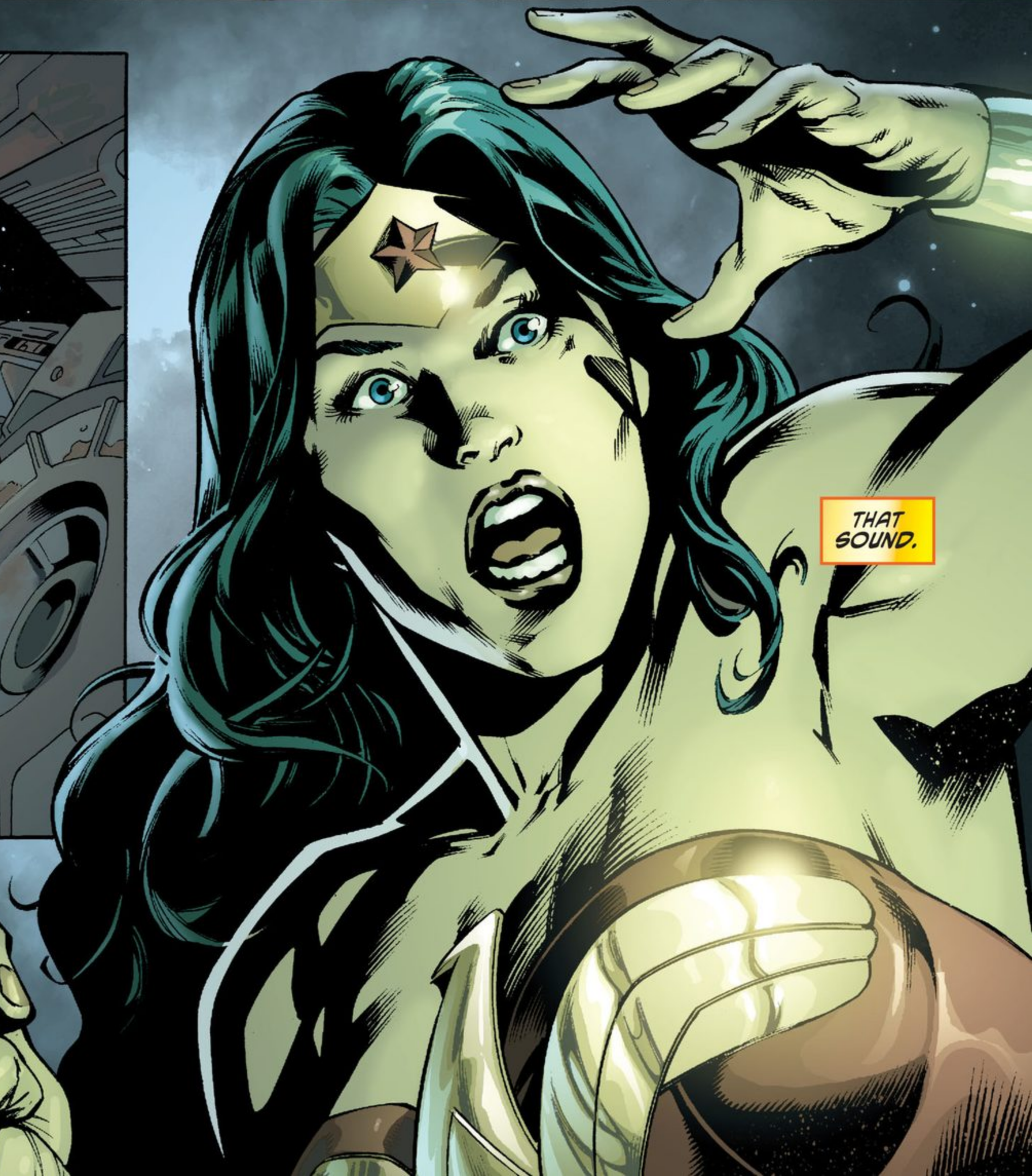
YES,
CAPTAIN.
BUT THE FLYING
WOMAN... SHE'S
GIVING US SOME
DIFFICULTY.

FIRE
THE MAIN
CANNON,
CITIZEN.



OUR
SHIPS AND
PILOTS ARE
STILL OUT
THERE,
CAPTAIN.
IF YOU WILL
ALLOW ME
TO RECALL
THEM
FIRST--

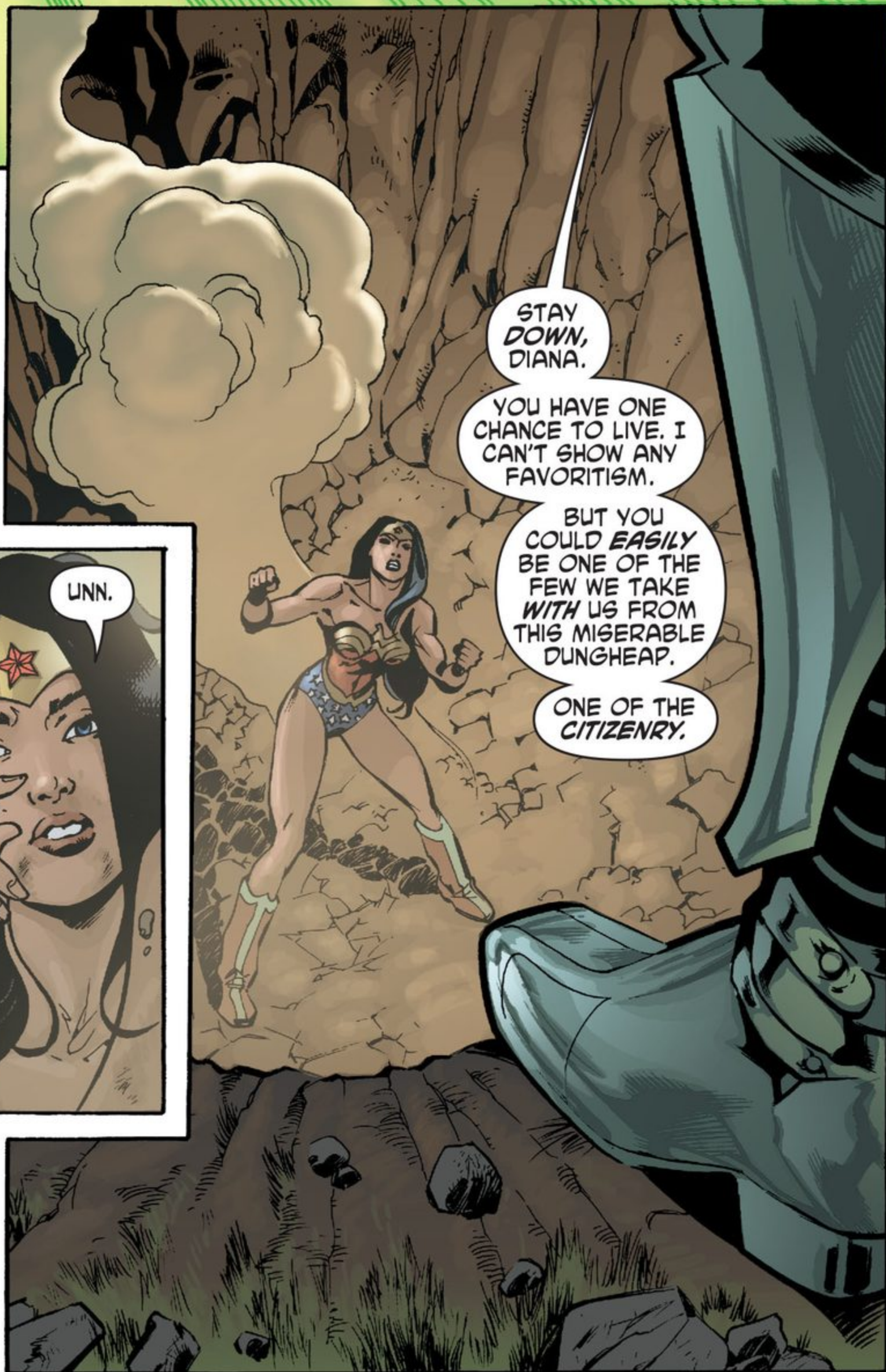
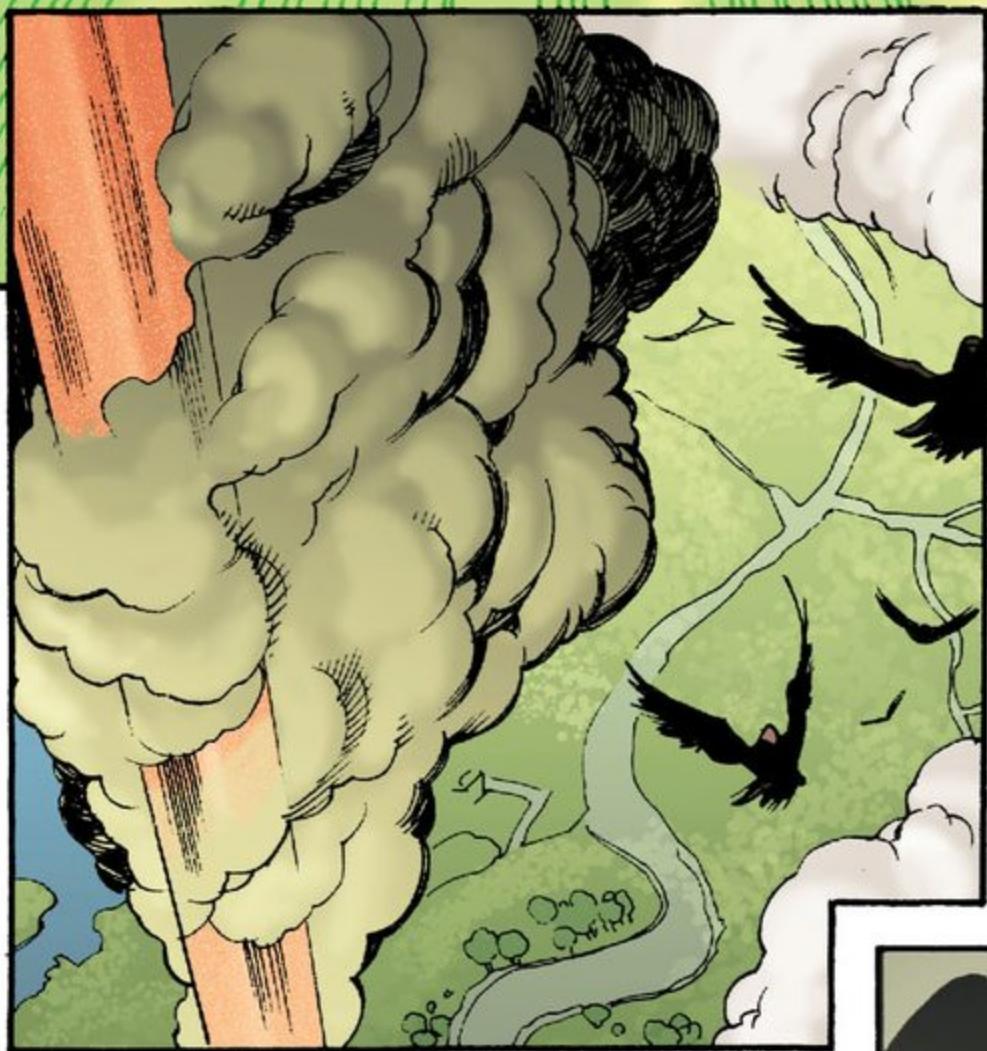
FIRE THE
SLITHERING
CANNON,
LIEUTENANT!



THAT
SOUND.



GGHHH.



STAY
DOWN,
DIANA.

YOU HAVE ONE
CHANCE TO LIVE. I
CAN'T SHOW ANY
FAVORITISM.

BUT YOU
COULD *EASILY*
BE ONE OF THE
FEW WE TAKE
WITH US FROM
THIS MISERABLE
DUNGHEAP.

ONE OF THE
CITIZENRY.



UNN.



YOU'RE A WOULD-BE CONQUEROR. I'M NOT IMPRESSED.

IS THAT WHAT I AM? IS THAT ALL YOU SEE IN ME, WARRIOR?



TAKE A GOOD LOOK.

MY EYES, DIANA. TAKE A LOOK IN MY EYES.

I AM THE ONE WHOM FORTUNE DID NOT FAVOR.



I AM YOUR AUNT, PRINCESS.

YOUR MOTHER IS MY SISTER!





WRATH OF THE SILVER SERPENT

PART TWO

BLOOD RED AND BONE DEEP

Nicola Scott & Fernando Dagnino Pencilers
Doug Hazlewood, Wayne Faucher, Bit & Brad Anderson Inkers

Cover by Nicola Scott with Hi-Fi



BEFORE...

MIRACLE. OH, MIRACLE.



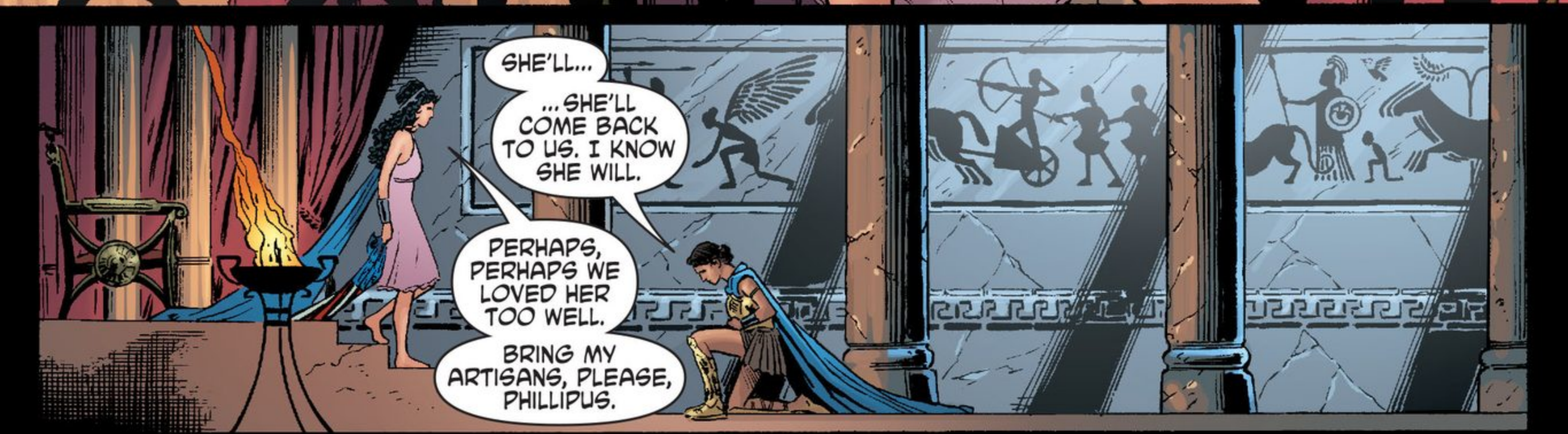
WONDER.



SHE'S LEAVING US.

I KNOW.

SO SOON. HOW COULD IT BE SO SOON?

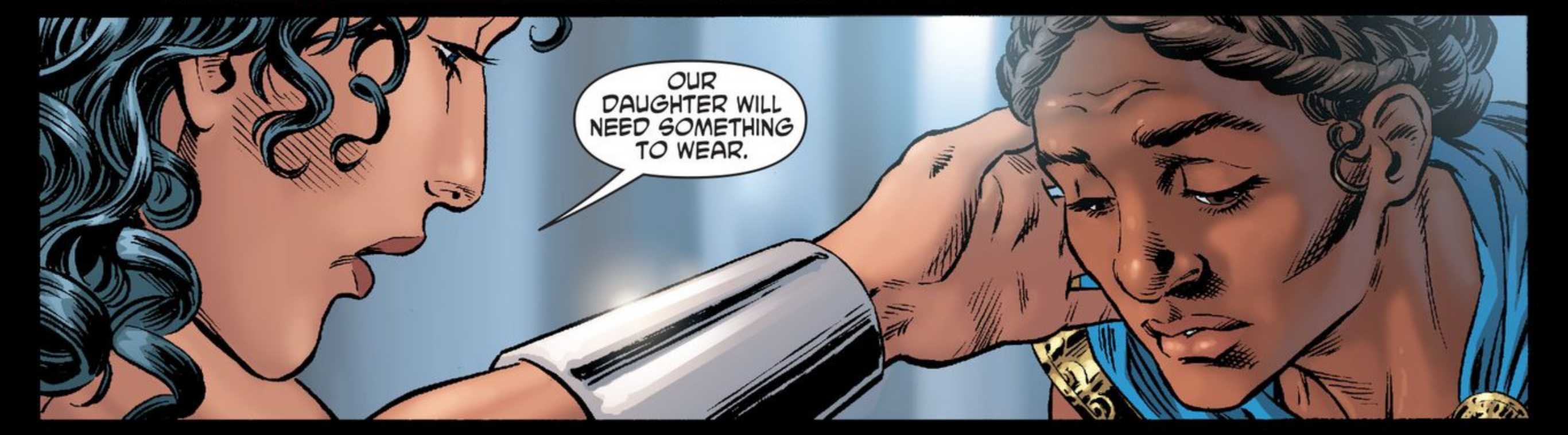


SHE'LL...

... SHE'LL COME BACK TO US. I KNOW SHE WILL.

PERHAPS, PERHAPS WE LOVED HER TOO WELL.

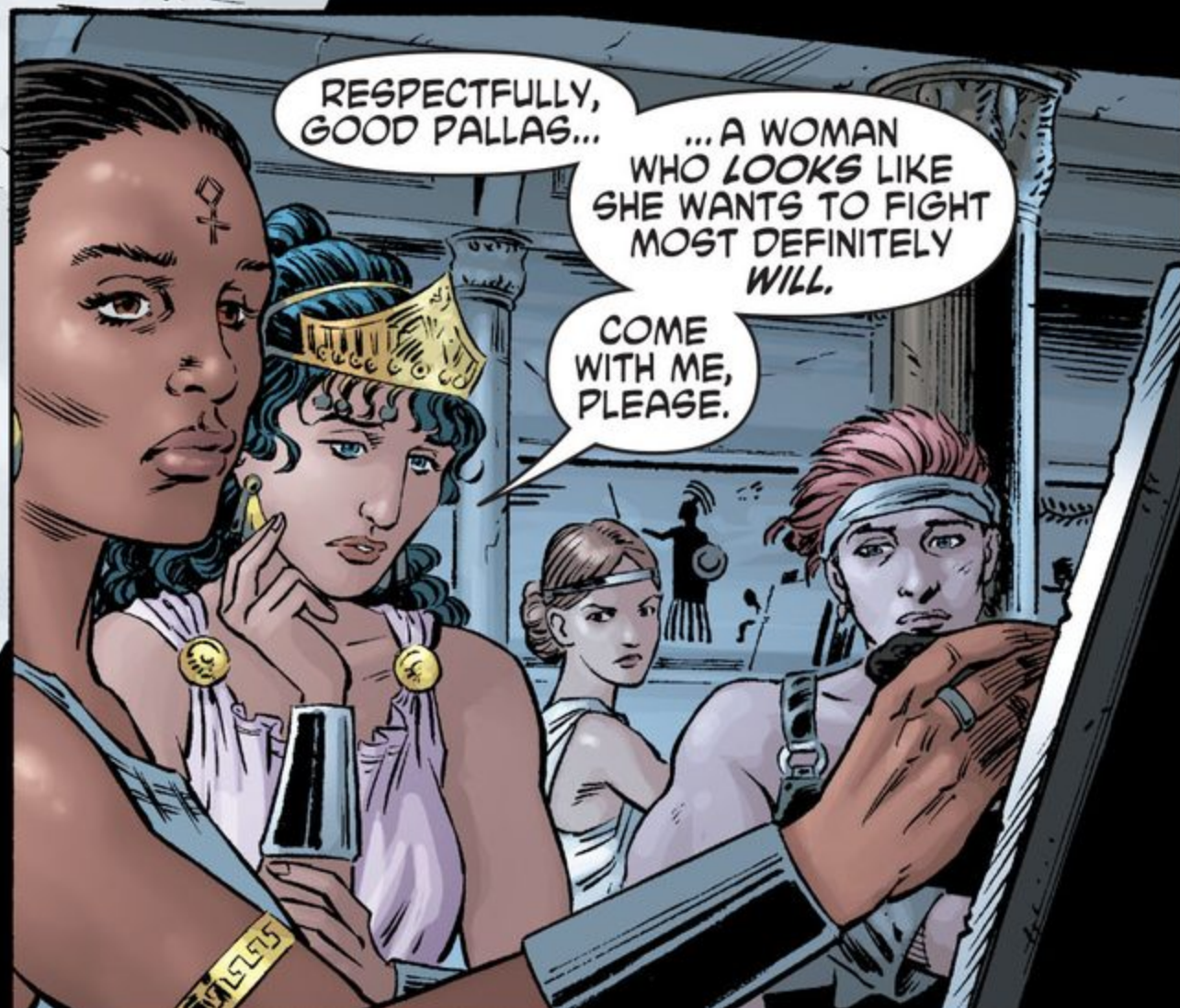
BRING MY ARTISANS, PLEASE, PHILLIPUS.



OUR DAUGHTER WILL NEED SOMETHING TO WEAR.



SOMETHING OF THIS NATURE, MY QUEEN?



RESPECTFULLY, GOOD PALLAS...

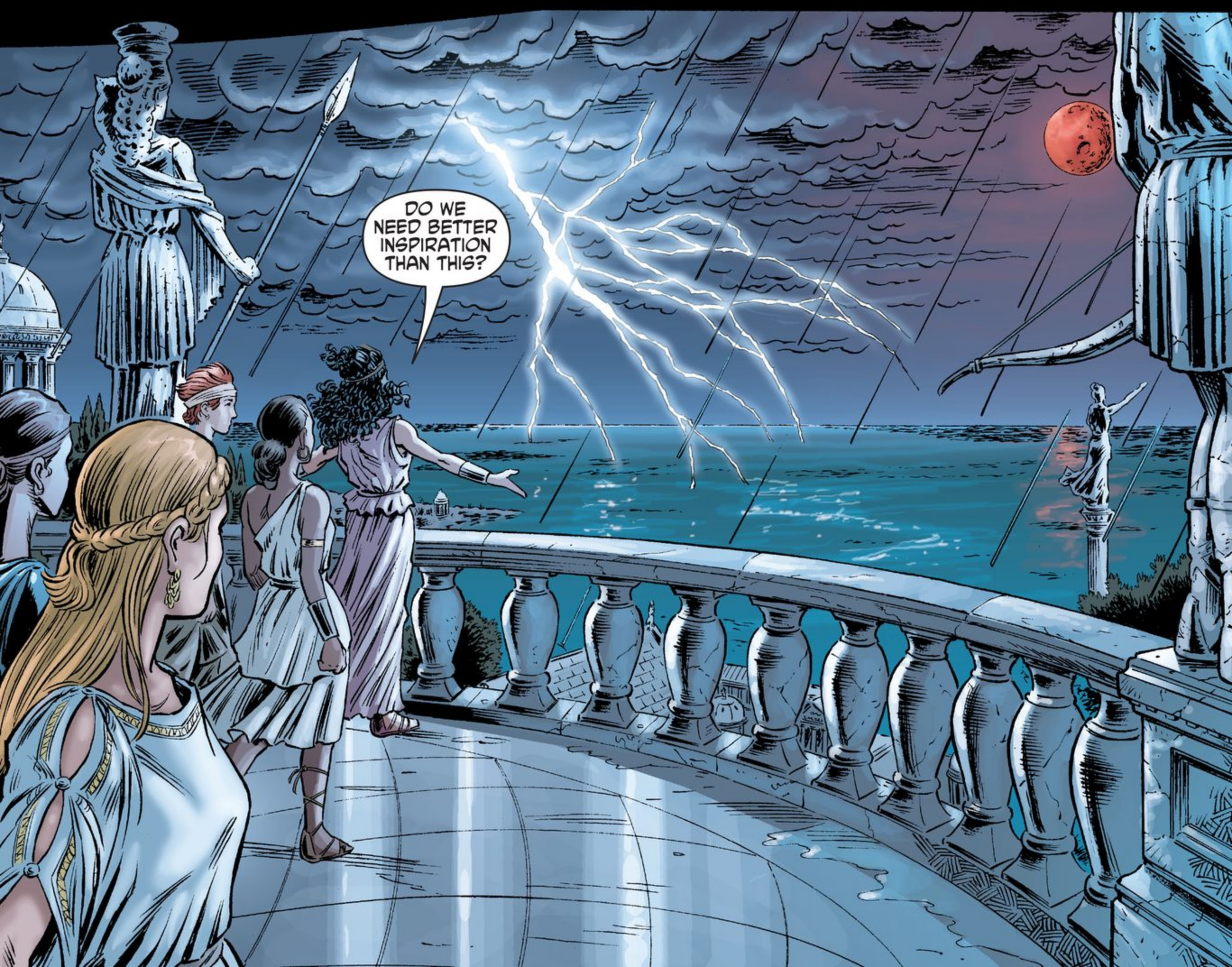
...A WOMAN WHO LOOKS LIKE SHE WANTS TO FIGHT MOST DEFINITELY WILL.

COME WITH ME, PLEASE.



SHE WAS BORN ON A NIGHT LIKE THIS.

SEE WHAT I SEE.



DO WE NEED BETTER INSPIRATION THAN THIS?



SHE IS THE DAUGHTER OF THE HUNTER'S MOON. SHE WILL WEAR HER CRIMSON.

CASSIOPEIA IS HER CONSTELLATION, THE W, THE CROWN, AND WHITE-HOT STARS ON A FIELD OF DEEP BLUE.

AS ALWAYS, WE TAKE FROM ABOVE, AND NEVER BELOW.



MY QUEEN. I'M SORRY, BUT WHY AM I HERE?

I HAVE A SPECIAL TASK FOR YOU, DEAR, PASSIONATE IO.



ATHENA REPRESENTS OUR GODS, WATCHING OVER US IN THE SHAPE OF ANOTHER BEAUTIFUL FLYING CREATURE.

YOU ARE TO FORGE A BREASTPLATE.



PLEASE. PLEASE, CAN'T YOU...

CAN'T YOU MAKE HER STAY?

MOTHERS AND DAUGHTERS MUST EVENTUALLY BE PARTED, FORGEMISTRESS. OR THEY ARE NOT REALLY MOTHERS AT ALL.



IT IS THE WORST NIGHT IN OUR TIME. WE LOSE OUR PRINCESS.

NO.

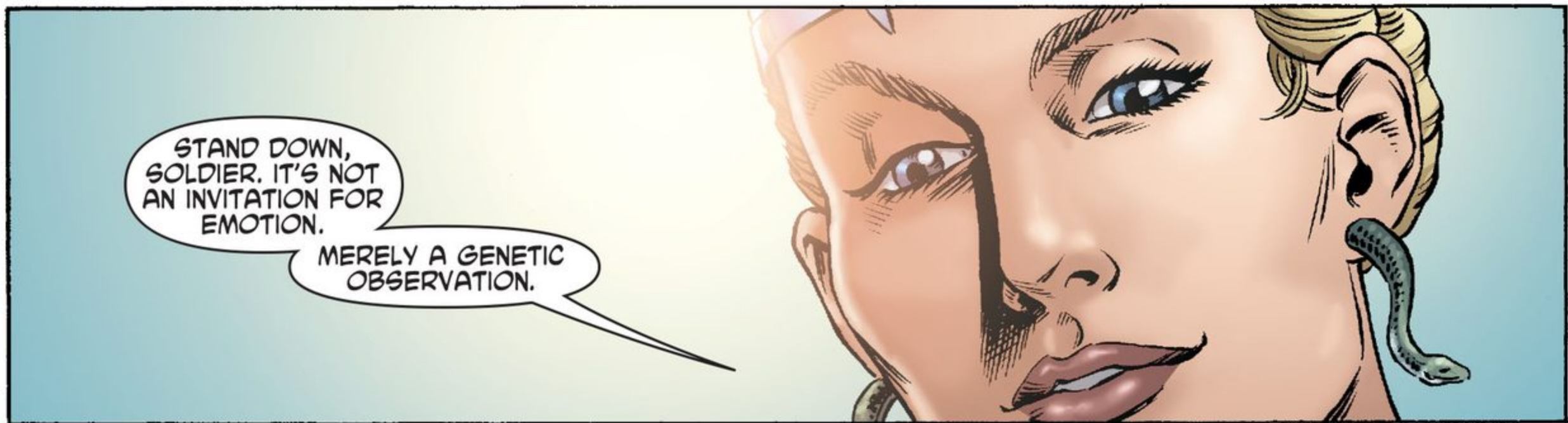
WE SIMPLY GIVE HER BACK TO THE SKY.

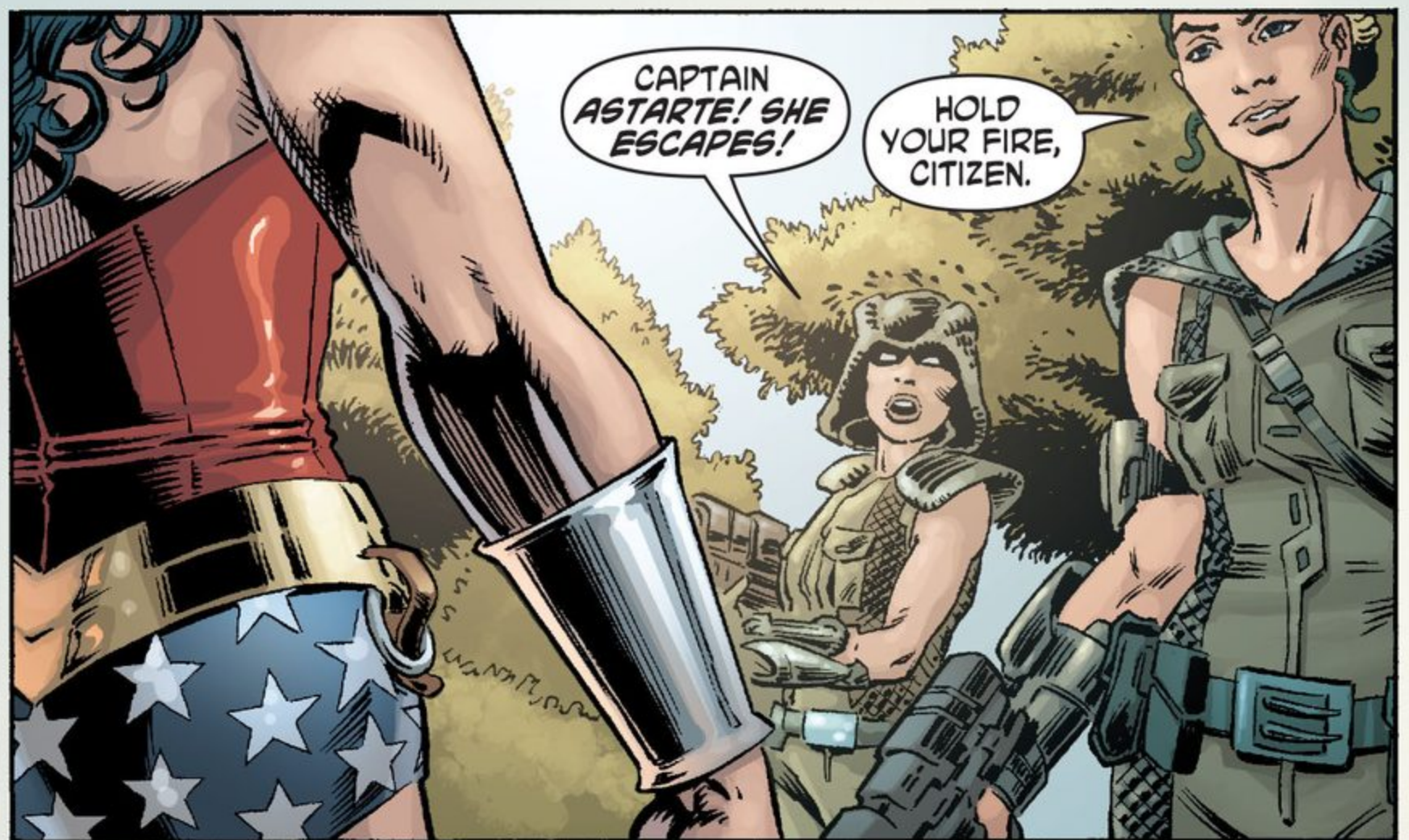


YOU HAVE
YOUR MOTHER'S
EYES.

I HAVE
MANY TRAITS
MY MOTHER
GAVE ME.

PERHAPS
I'LL IMPOSE
SOME UPON
YOU.





CAPTAIN
ASTARTE! SHE
ESCAPES!

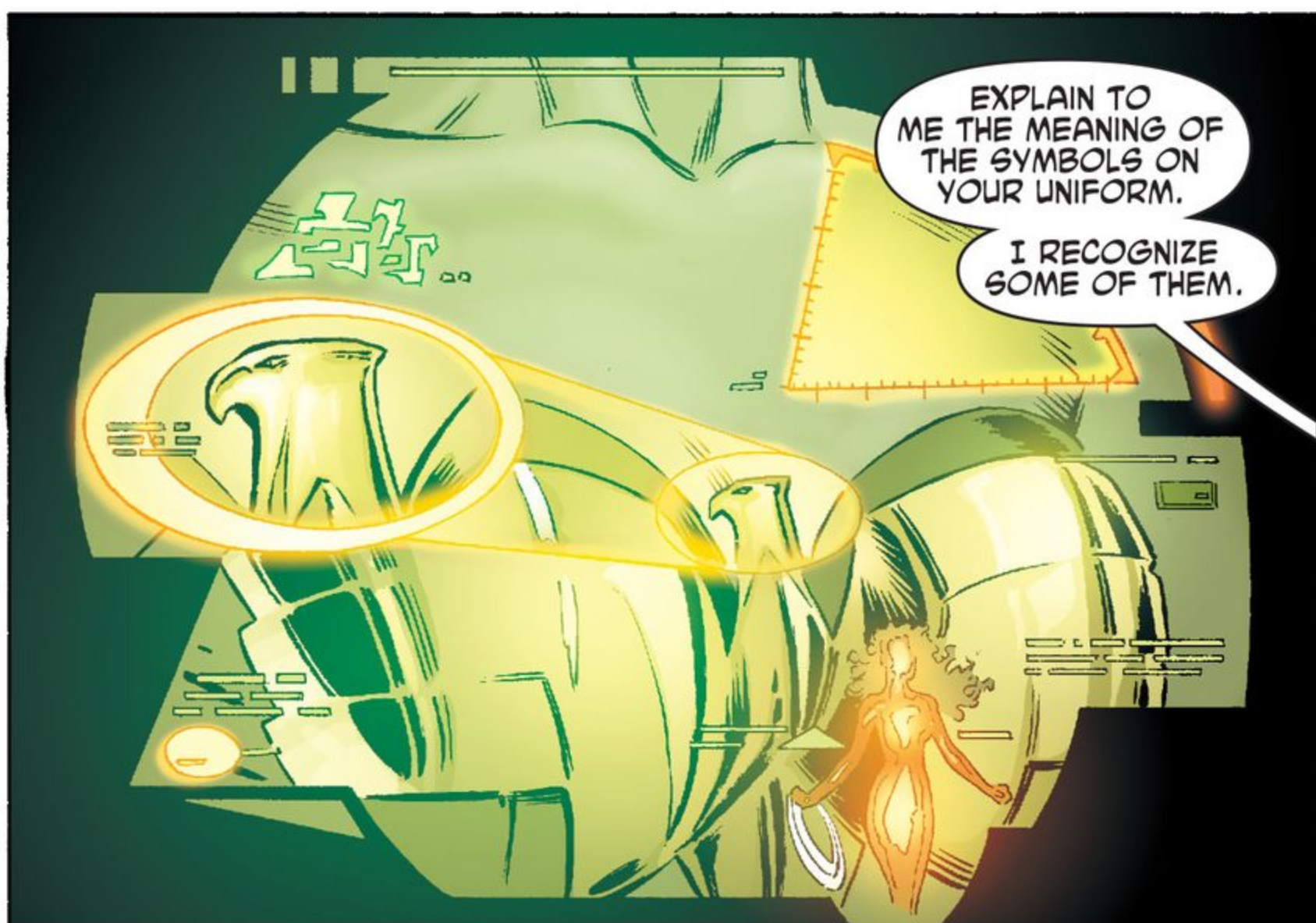
HOLD
YOUR FIRE,
CITIZEN.



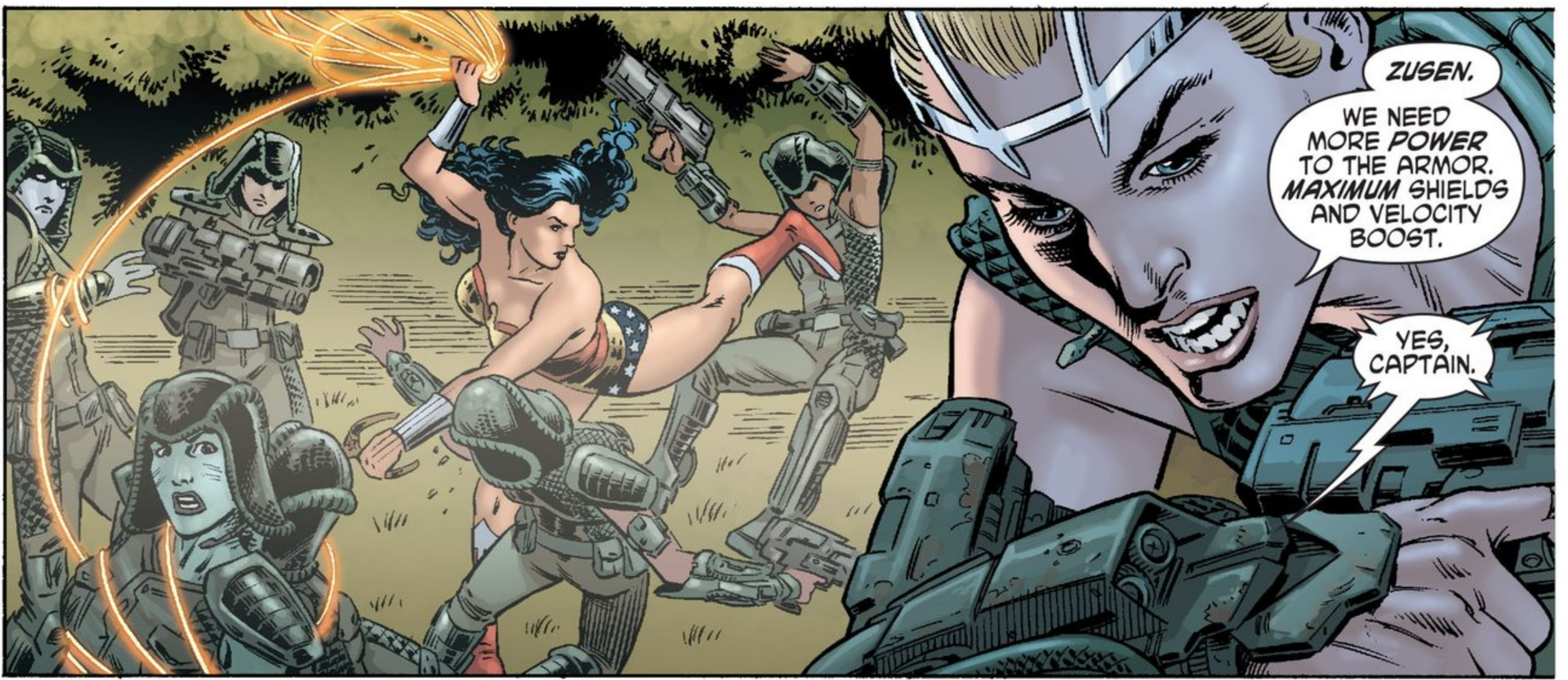
TAKE
YOUR SOLDIERS,
YOUR GUNS, AND
YOUR SHIP AND
LEAVE.

OR
I'LL MAKE
YOU NOTHING
BUT A BAD
MEMORY.

"AUNTIE."







ZUSEN.
WE NEED
MORE POWER
TO THE ARMOR.
MAXIMUM SHIELDS
AND VELOCITY
BOOST.

YES,
CAPTAIN.



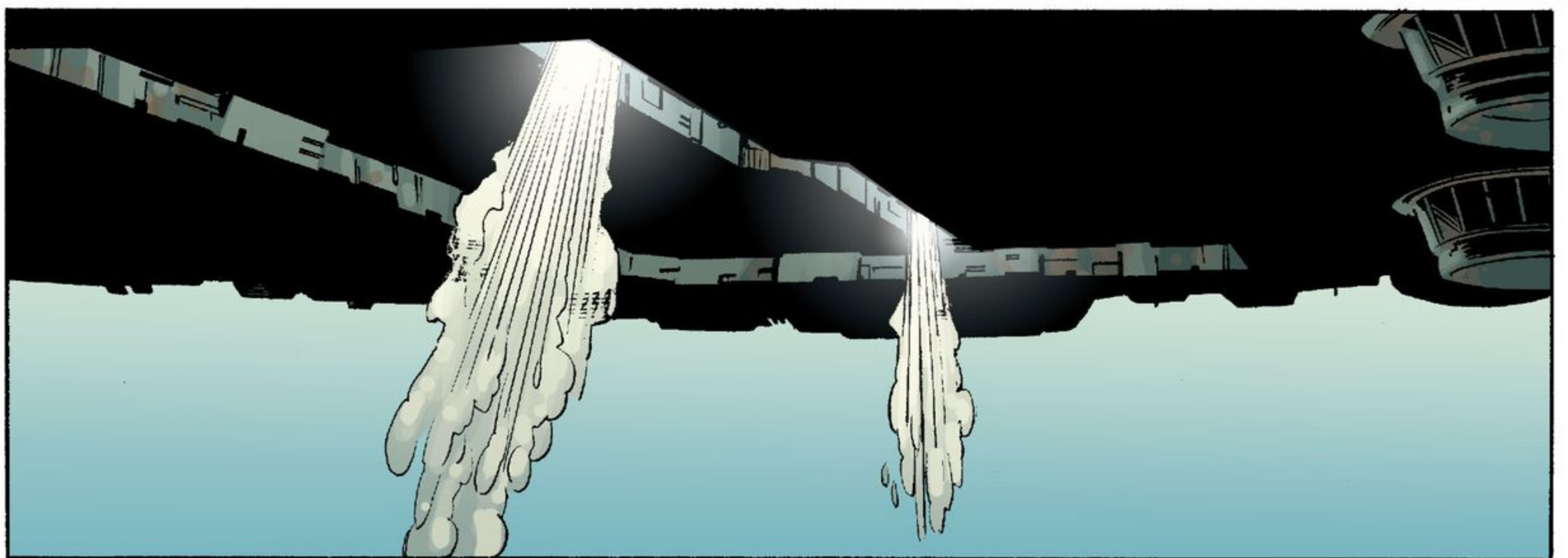
SHOULD WE...
SHOULD WE
OPEN HOLD 17,
CAPTAIN?

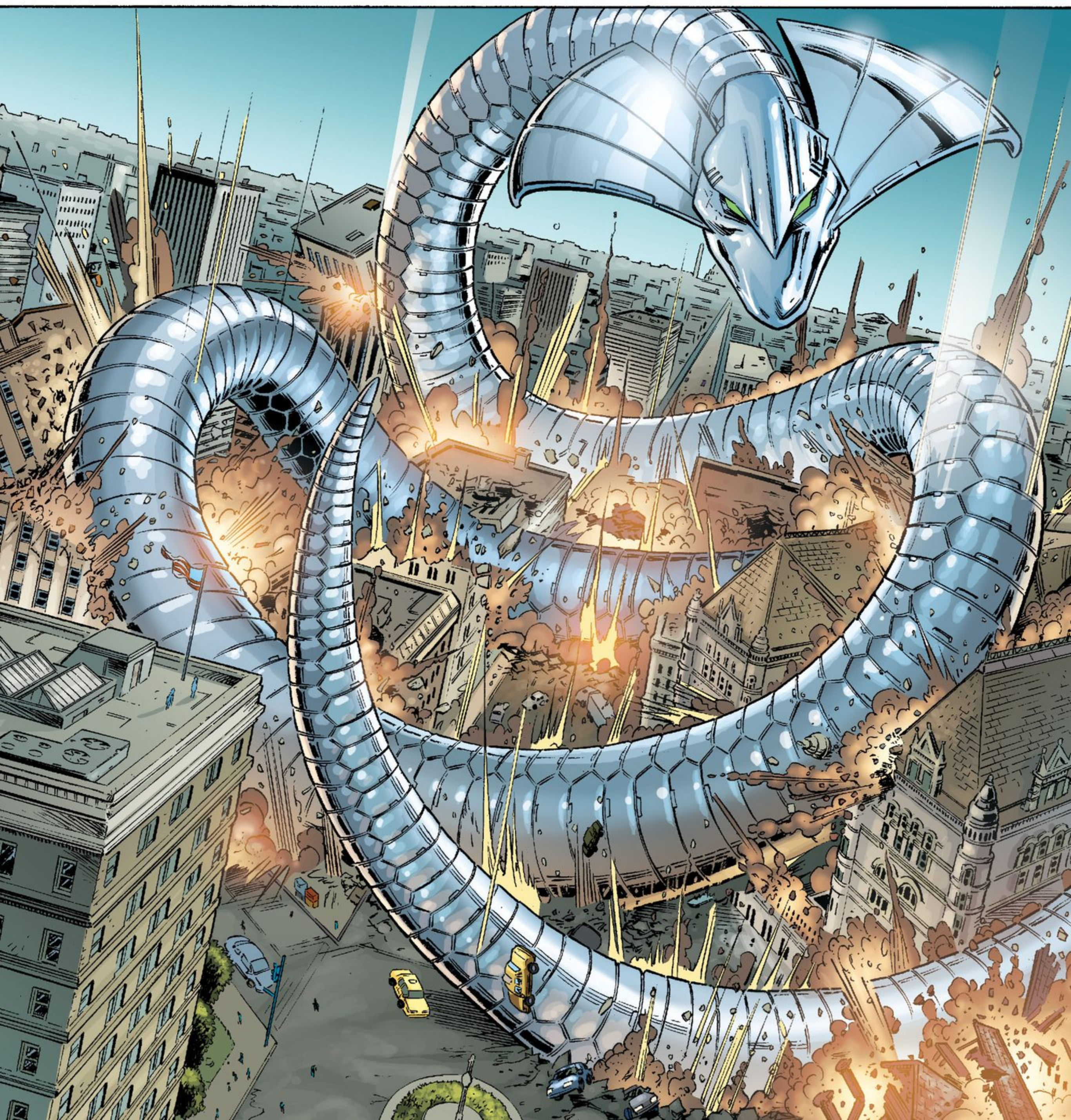
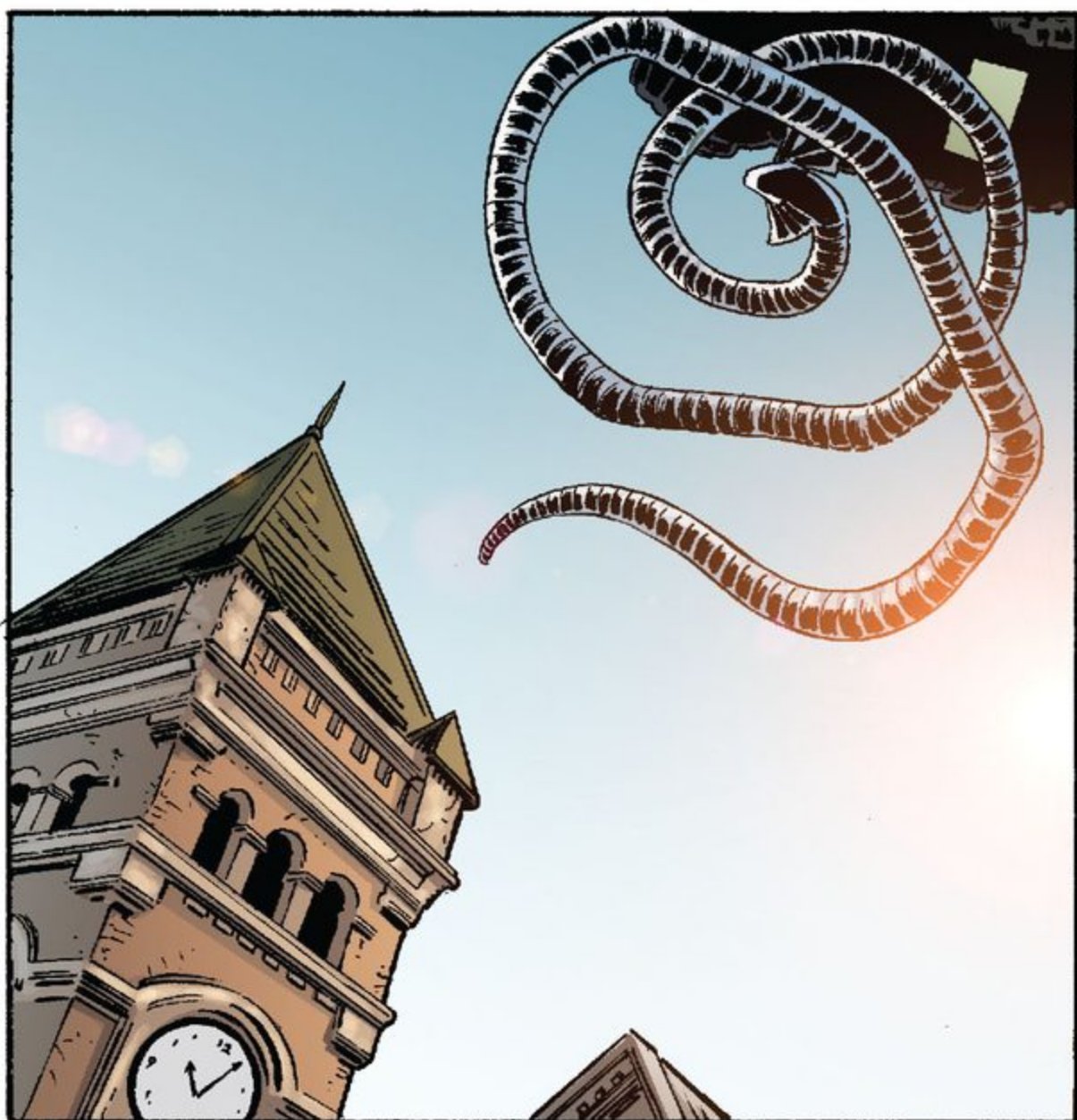
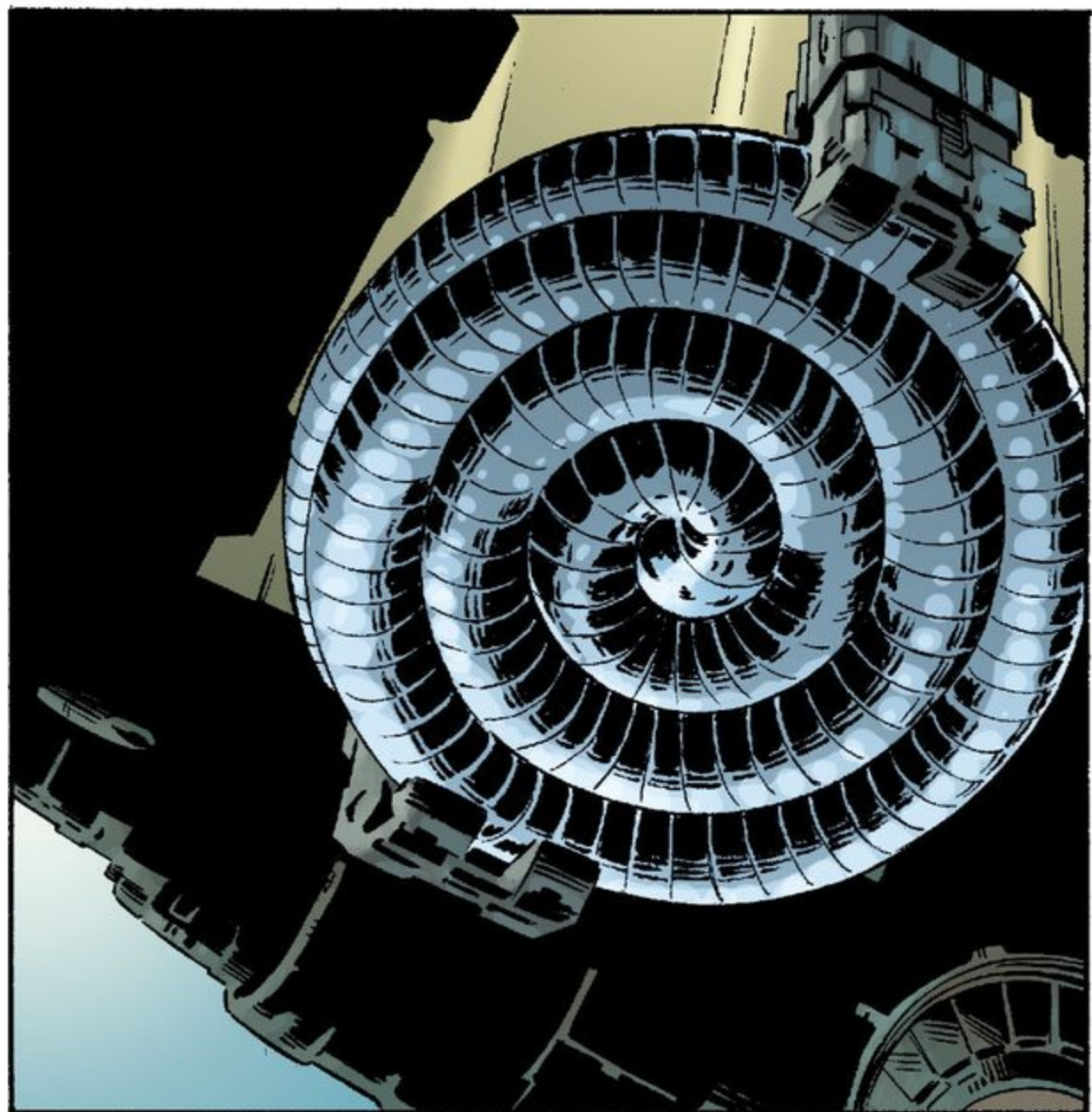
NEGATIVE.
DO NOT LET THAT
THING LOOSE,
LIEUTENANT!



DROP THE
SILVER SERPENT
INSTEAD.

PERHAPS
THAT VIRGIN BIRTH
WILL GET THEIR
ATTENTION.

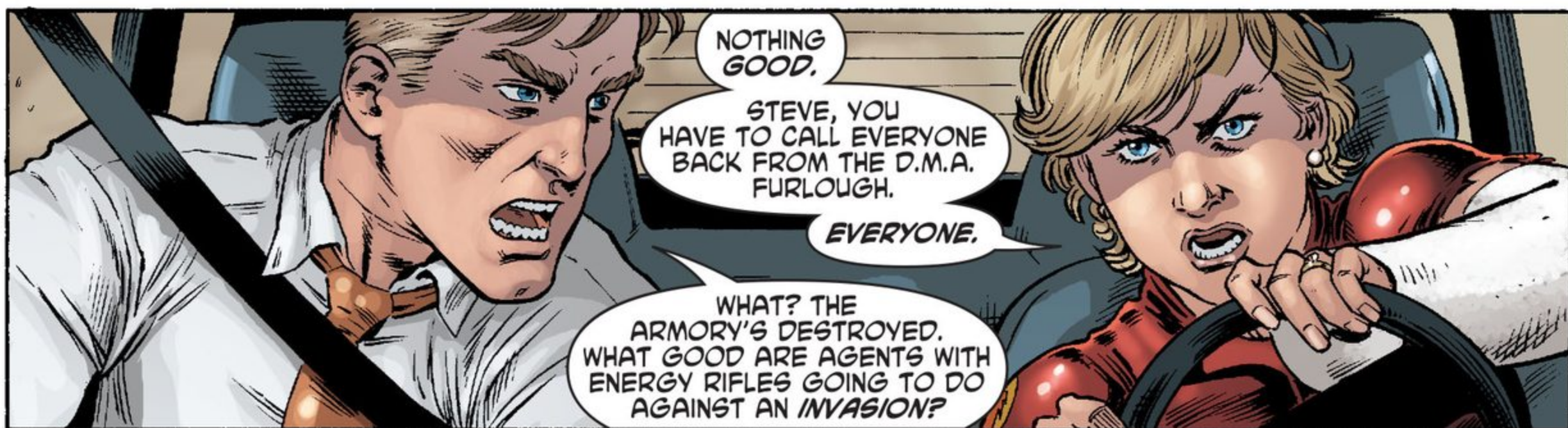






WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?

I'M SORRY FOR MY SINS LORD



NOTHING GOOD.

STEVE, YOU HAVE TO CALL EVERYONE BACK FROM THE D.M.A. FURLOUGH.

EVERYONE.

WHAT? THE ARMORY'S DESTROYED. WHAT GOOD ARE AGENTS WITH ENERGY RIFLES GOING TO DO AGAINST AN INVASION?



STEVE. NO ONE'S GETTING OUT, AND NO ONE'S GETTING IN.

THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO CAN HELP ARE THOSE ALREADY INSIDE THE FENCE.

SO WHERE ARE WE GOING, ETTA?



TO GET SOME HELP.

WHAT CHOICE DO WE HAVE?

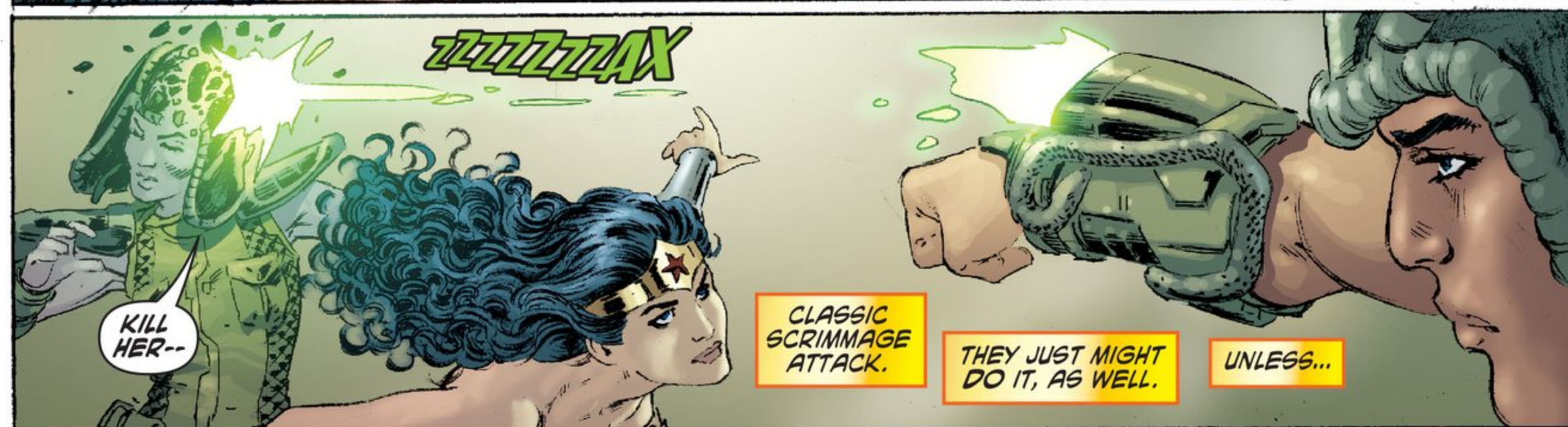
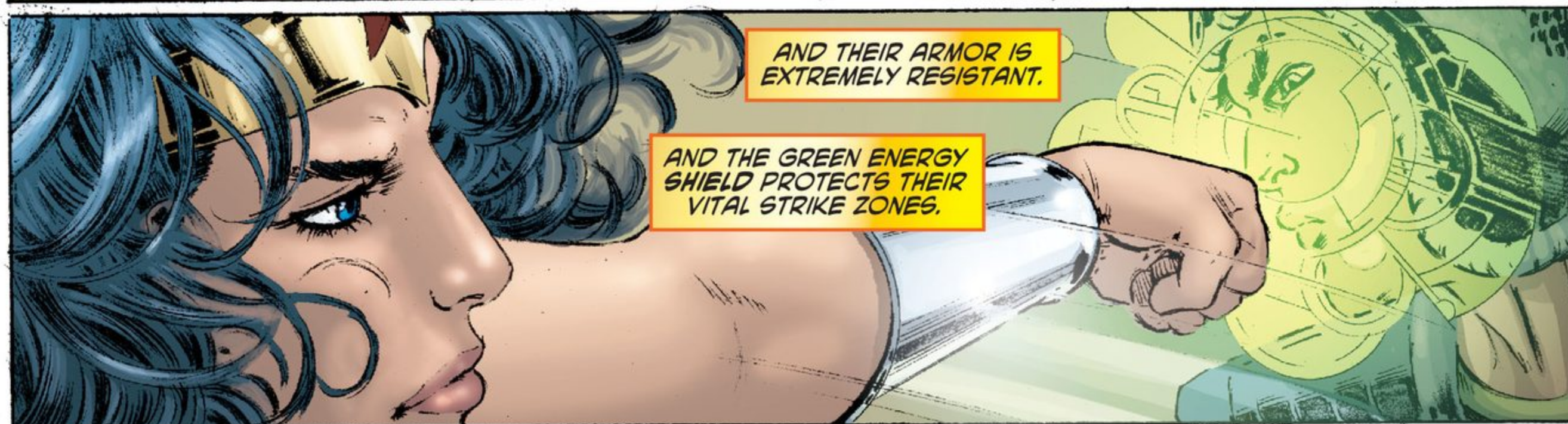
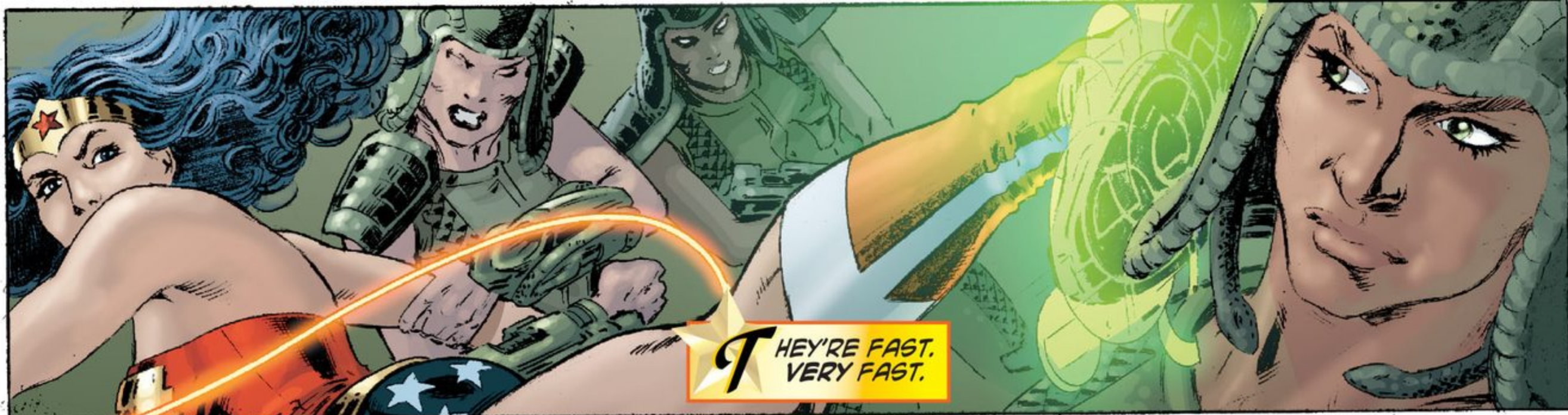


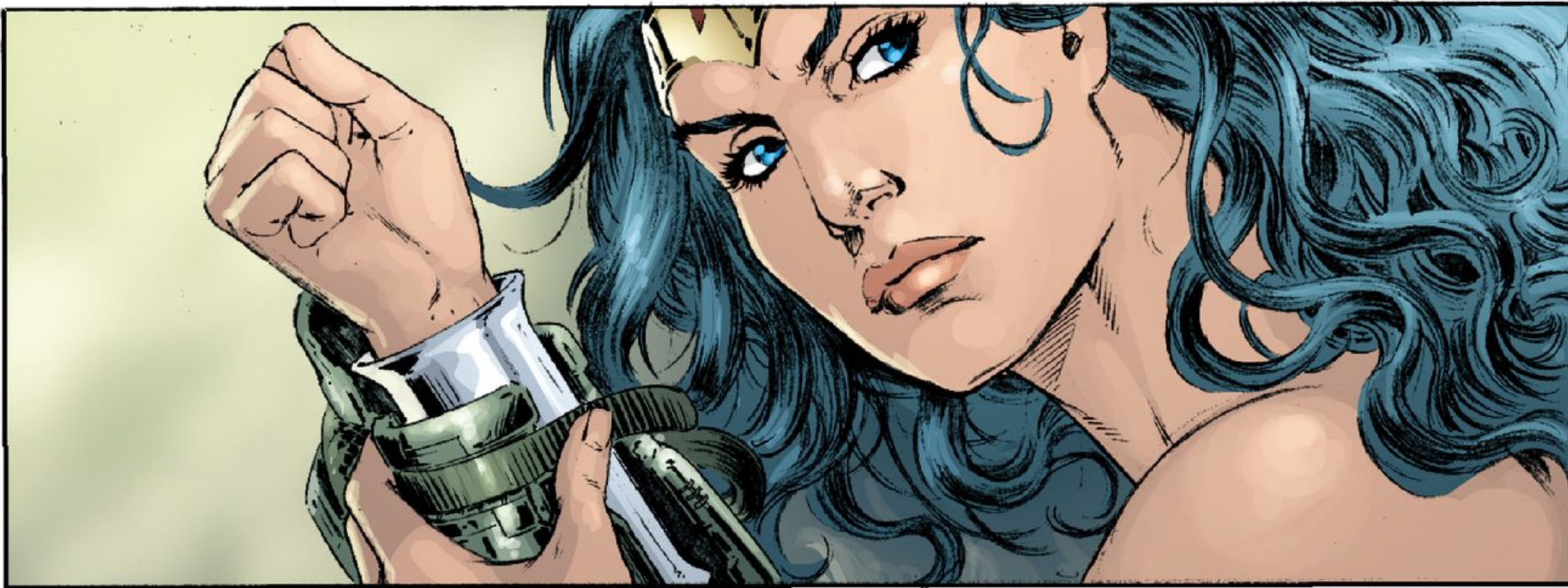
NONE, SWEETIE.

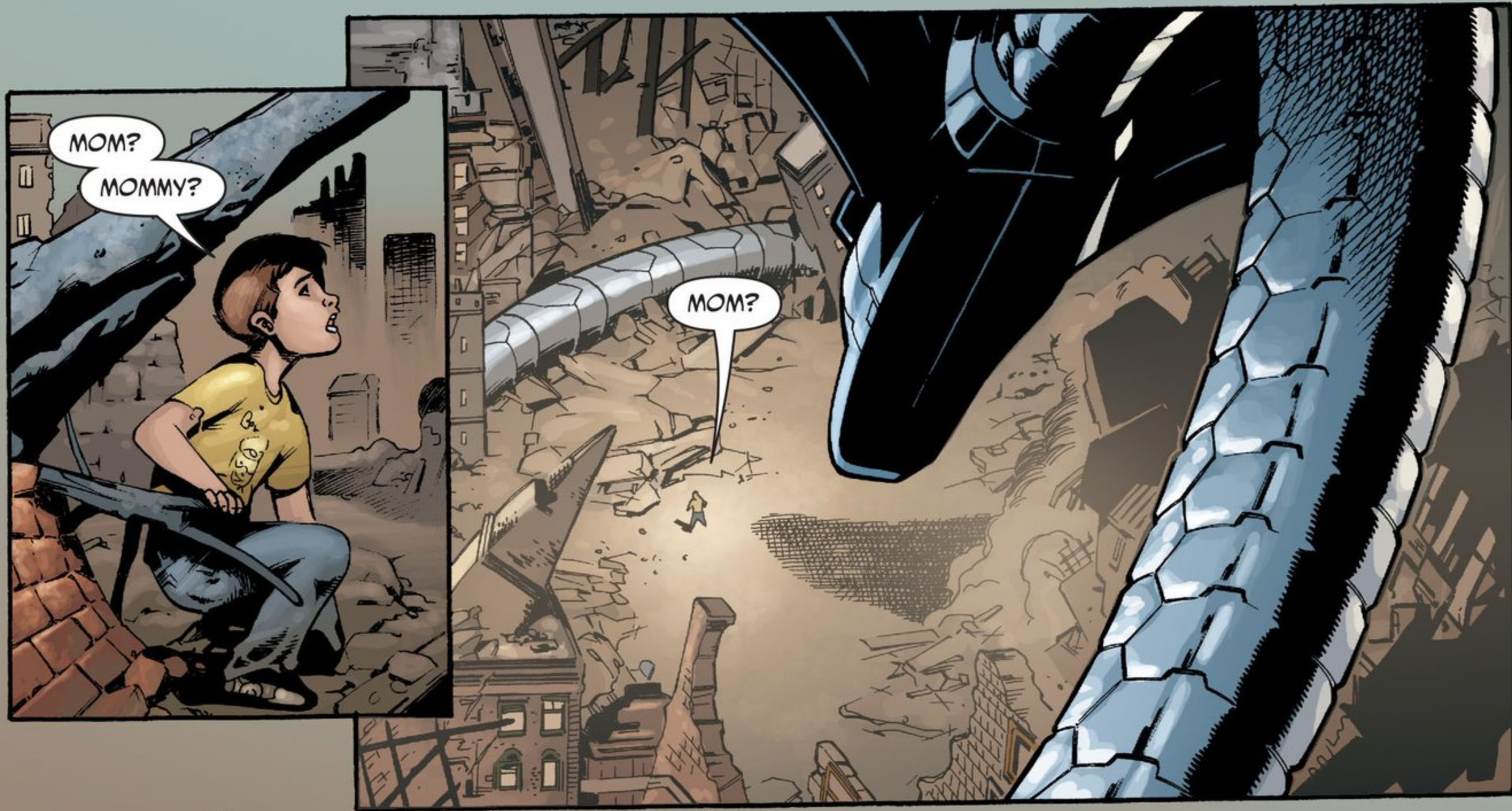
I LOVE YOU MORE THAN ANYTHING.



NOW GET ME TO SOMETHING THAT FLIES.







HAVE YOU NO ARMS, TO CLIMB?

HAVE YOU NO TOES, TO GRIP?

MIRADA, THE INFANT IS COVERED IN HIS MOTHER'S SPOOR.

FIND HER AND RETURN HIM. UNLESS SHE IS...

I UNDERSTAND, GREAT TOLIFHAR. I OBEY.

WE CALLED OUT WHAT LITTLE ROLLING STOCK THE D.M.A. STILL HAS IN THE WAY OF TANKS, BUT WE DON'T HAVE *ANYTHING* THAT CAN TAKE *THAT* THING DOWN.

AND WE CAN'T COUNT ON ANYONE FROM OUTSIDE THE HOT ZONE FOR HELP. IDEAS?

WELL, I MIGHT HAVE ONE, LT. COLONEL CANDY.

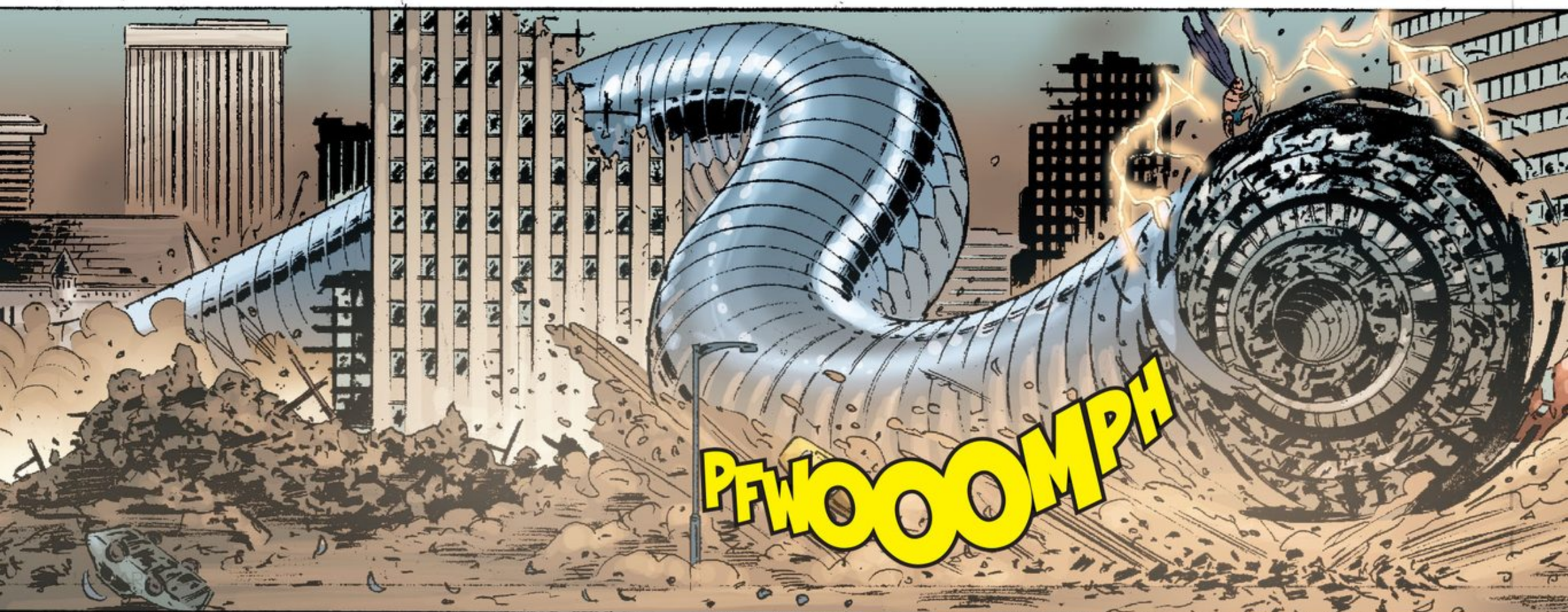
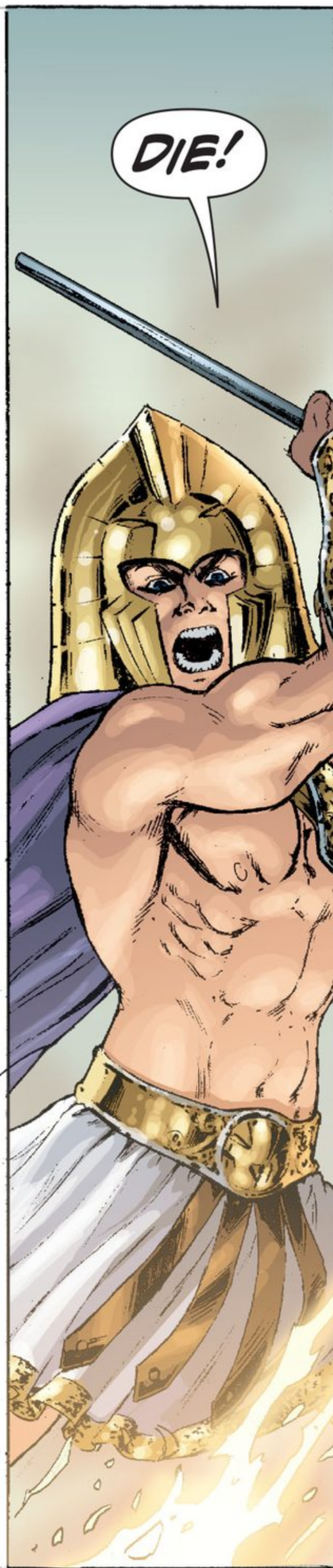
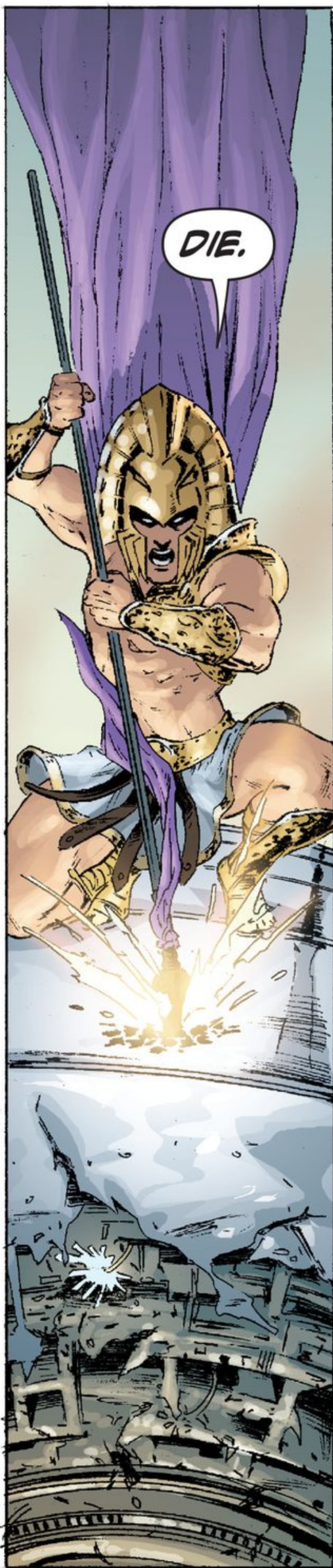
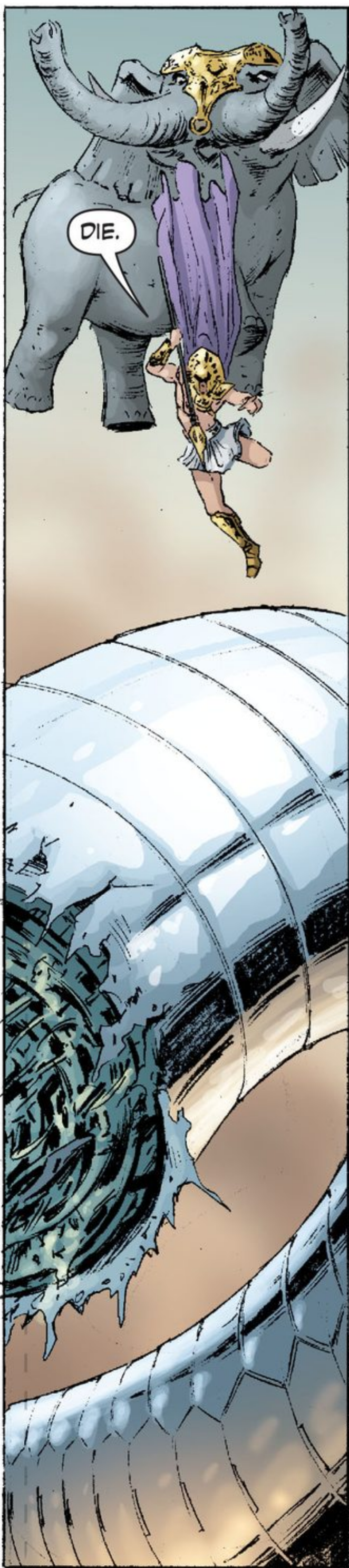
"I THINK WE'RE
FORGETTING THE ELEPHANT
IN THE ROOM."

CURSED
SERPENT!
ILL-BEGOTTEN
SPAWN OF
A HYDRA'S
BACKSIDE!



ACHILLES
SENDS YOU BACK
TO THE APERTURE
OF YOUR GOD-
BESPITTED
BIRTH!







UH...
MR. ACHILLES?
SIR?

WE'RE
FRIENDS OF
DIANA'S?



AND FRANKLY,
SHE NEVER
SAID YOU HAD
THAT KIND OF
STRENGTH.

...
MY STRENGTH
IS PROPORTIONAL
TO MY CONVICTION
IN BATTLE. I WAS
CONFLICTED
PREVIOUSLY.

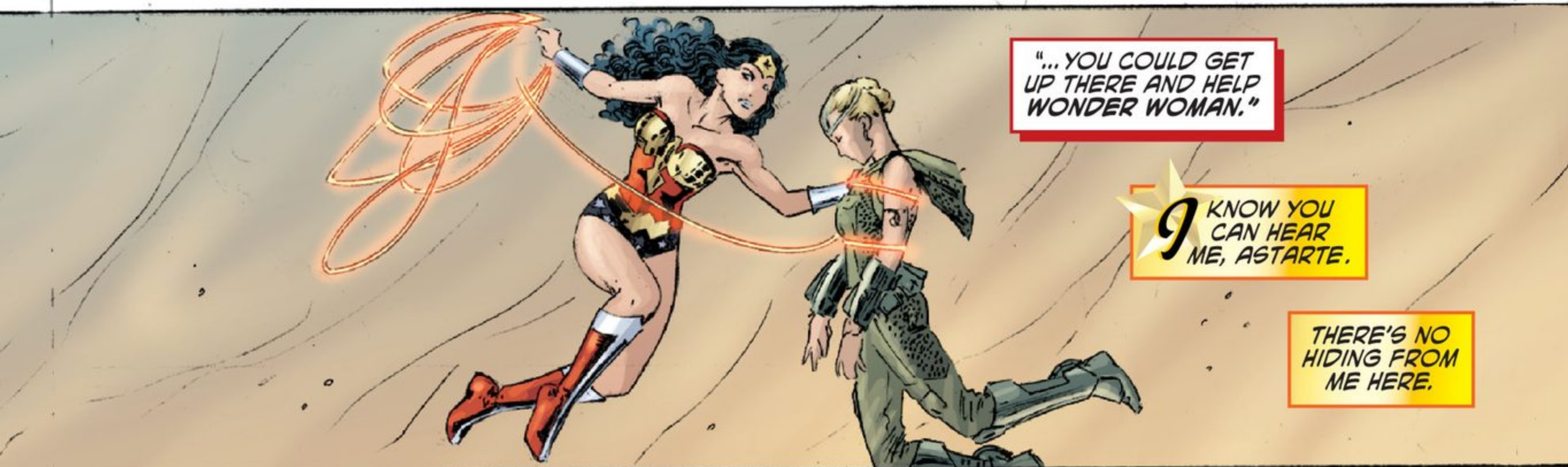
NO
LONGER.

I DON'T
KNOW THIS
WORLD, FRIEND
OF DIANA.



WHAT DO I DO
TO STOP THIS... THIS
ABOMINATION?

WELL, FOR A
START...



"... YOU COULD GET
UP THERE AND HELP
WONDER WOMAN."

I KNOW YOU
CAN HEAR
ME, ASTARTE.

THERE'S NO
HIDING FROM
ME HERE.



WHO CLAIMS
I'M HIDING? THE
CITIZENRY DO
NOT *HIDE*.

JUST
SURVEYING THE
NEW BATTLEGROUND,
DAUGHTER OF MY
SISTER.



WHAT IS THIS?
WHAT SORT OF
TACTIC?

NO TACTIC.
YOU ARE IN MY
LAGGO.

THESE ARE
SHADOWS OF
YOUR LIFE.

I CAN'T CONTROL
THEM. THE TRUTH IS A
RIVER THAT WILL NOT
BE DAMMED.



WE'VE
COME FOR OUR
TRIBUTE.

THE CITIZENRY
WERE DIFFERENT
IN THOSE DAYS.
COMPASSIONATE.

WEAK.

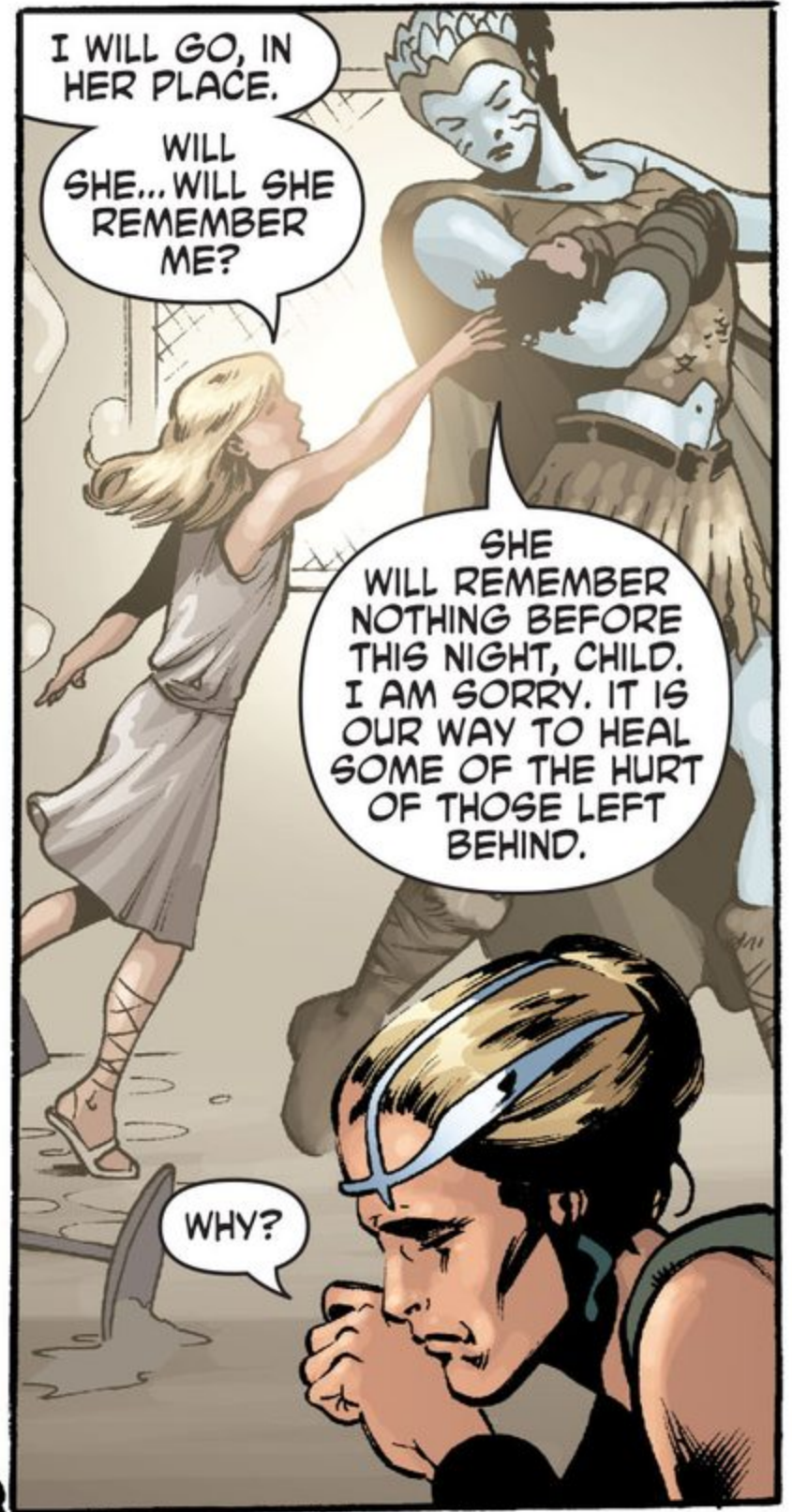
THEY
WOULD
TAKE ONE
HUNDRED
EXCEPTIONAL
FEMALES
FROM EACH
PLANET,
RESTOCK
PROVISIONS,
AND
LEAVE.



STOP! YOU
CAN'T HAVE
HER!

THEY
DIDN'T WANT
ME. THEY
WANTED THE
ONLY THING
I'D EVER
LOVED.

MY BABY
SISTER.
HIPPOLYTA.



I WILL GO, IN
HER PLACE.

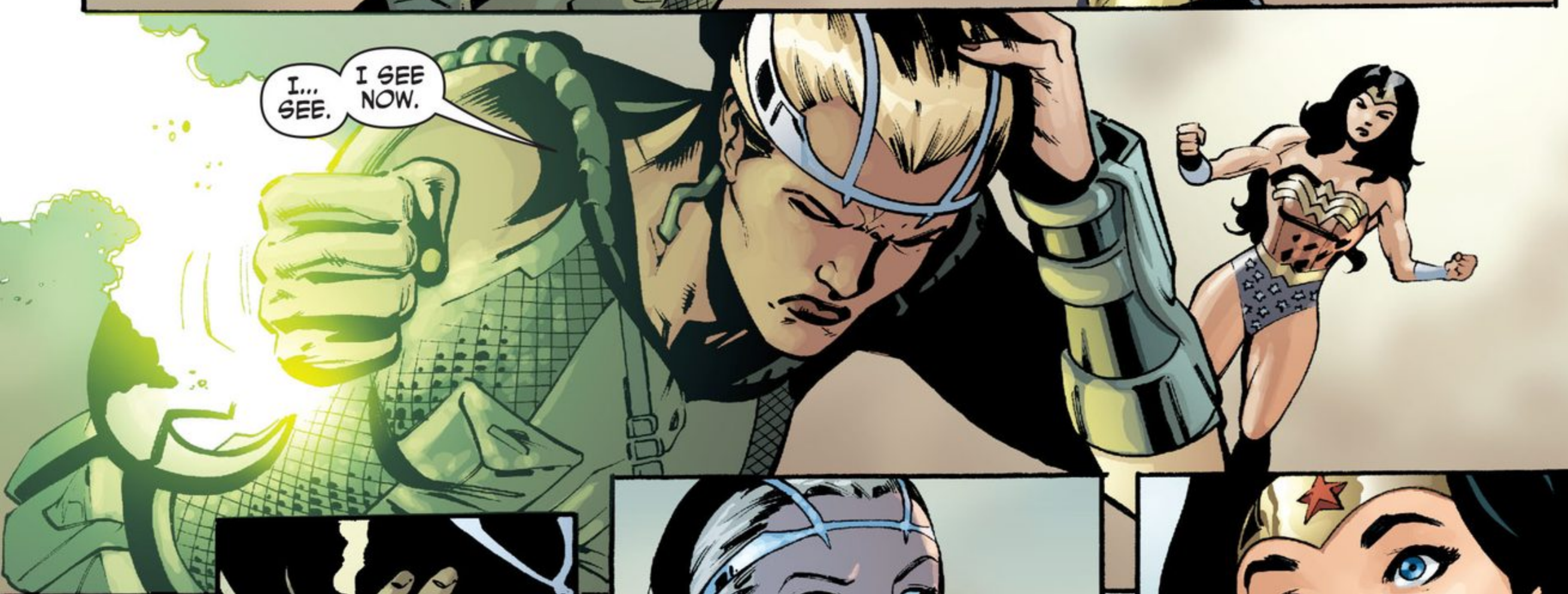
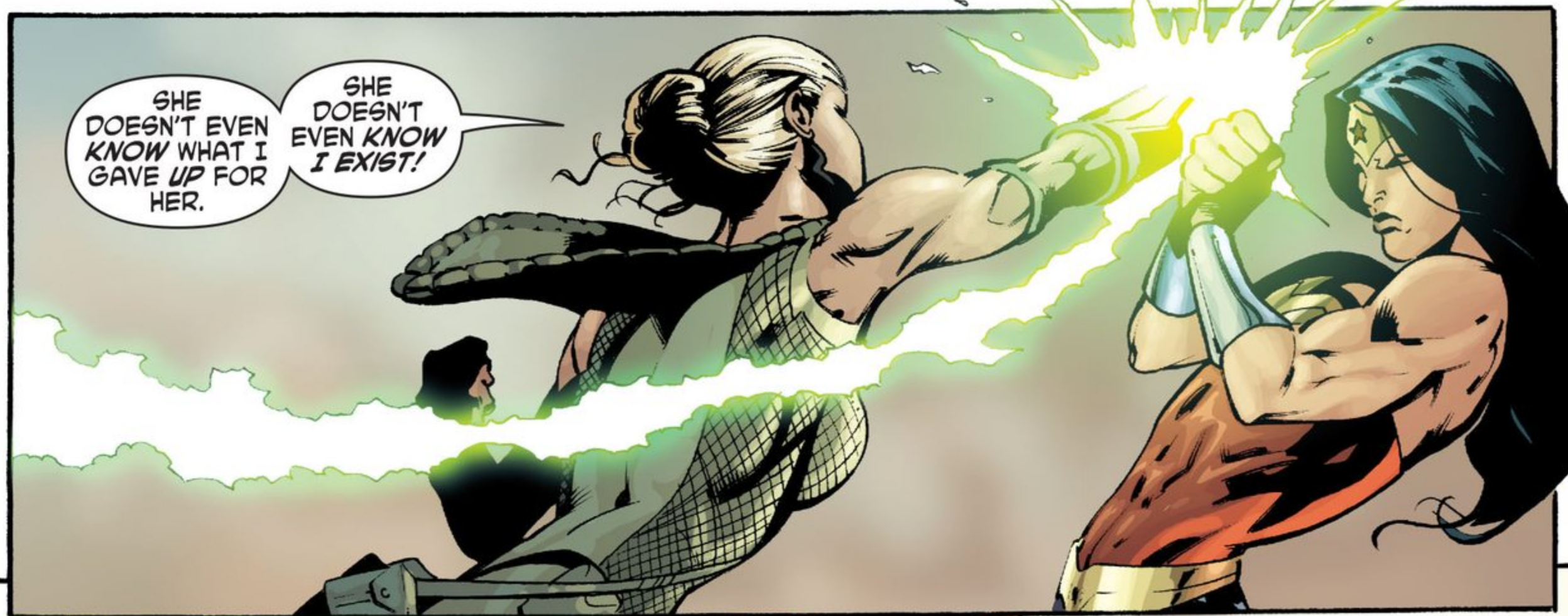
WILL
SHE... WILL SHE
REMEMBER
ME?

SHE
WILL REMEMBER
NOTHING BEFORE
THIS NIGHT, CHILD.
I AM SORRY. IT IS
OUR WAY TO HEAL
SOME OF THE HURT
OF THOSE LEFT
BEHIND.

WHY?



WHY DID
YOU MAKE ME
REMEMBER?





I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR FEEDING AND FUELING THAT FLEET.

A PLANET'S WORTH OF PEOPLE, UNWELCOME ANYWHERE.

"I KILLED THE CAPTAIN WHO KIDNAPPED ME.

"I MADE US A FORCE TO FRIGHTEN EVEN THE OANS.

"THERE IS NO SURRENDER. THERE ARE NO PRISONERS."



A LIFE OF ENDLESS MURDER?

I OFFER YOU A WAY OUT.

THERE IS NONE SAVE DEATH. FOR EITHER OF US.

ALREADY MY OFFICERS PLOT TO MURDER ME.



I APOLOGIZE FOR MY LOSS OF COMPOSURE.

I'M ORDERING THE FLEET TO THIS LOCATION.

YOU MAY COME WITH US, IF YOU LIKE, BEFORE THE END.



YOUR LIFE IS JOYLESS AND WITHOUT EXPECTATION, ASTARTE.

I OFFER YOU SOMETHING IN EXCHANGE FOR MY HOME.

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU COULD POSSIBLY OFFER ME, CHILD?



A CHANCE TO CONSOLIDATE YOUR POWER, CAPTAIN.

"YOUR OFFICERS
BELIEVE YOU
GROW WEAK."

"SHOW THEM YOU'RE
STRONG. SHOW THEM HOW
YOU'VE DOMINATED THIS
WORLD COMPLETELY."

"ENTERTAIN THEM,
CAPTAIN ASTARTE."

"GIVE THEM
A DUEL."

LIEUTENANT SUZEN.
TAKE ARMSMISTRESS
ARAMIS AND READY THE
ARENA. UNLOCK HOLD
SEVENTEEN.

YOU'LL HAVE
TO HAVE SOME
CITIZENRY GEAR.
EVEN WITH YOUR
ABILITIES, YOU'LL
DIE TOO FAST
WITHOUT THEM.

IT WOULD
WEAKEN
MY POSITION,
SHOULD THAT
OCCUR.

WE DON'T HAVE
TIME TO TEACH YOU
TO USE IT.

BUT IT
WOULDN'T MAKE
ANY DIFFERENCE
ANYWAY.

IF I WIN,
YOU LEAVE THIS
SYSTEM?

I
WOULD,
BUT YOU
WON'T.

AND THE
MOMENT YOU ARE
BEATEN...?

I SEND
EVERYTHING WE HAVE
AT YOUR PLANET.

WE KNOW
ABOUT YOUR
METAHUMANS.

IT WON'T
HELP.

CAPTAIN.

WHAT LIVES
IN HOLD SEVENTEEN?
WHAT IS IT I HAVE
TO KILL?

THE MOST
VICIOUS CITIZEN
SOLDIER WE'VE EVER
RAISED, CHILD.

EVERY CRUEL
IMPULSE EVER
IMAGINED.

HER NAME
IS **THEANA**.



AND
SHE IS OUR
PRINCESS.

SHE IS OUR
CHAMPION.

AND
SHE IS MY
DAUGHTER.



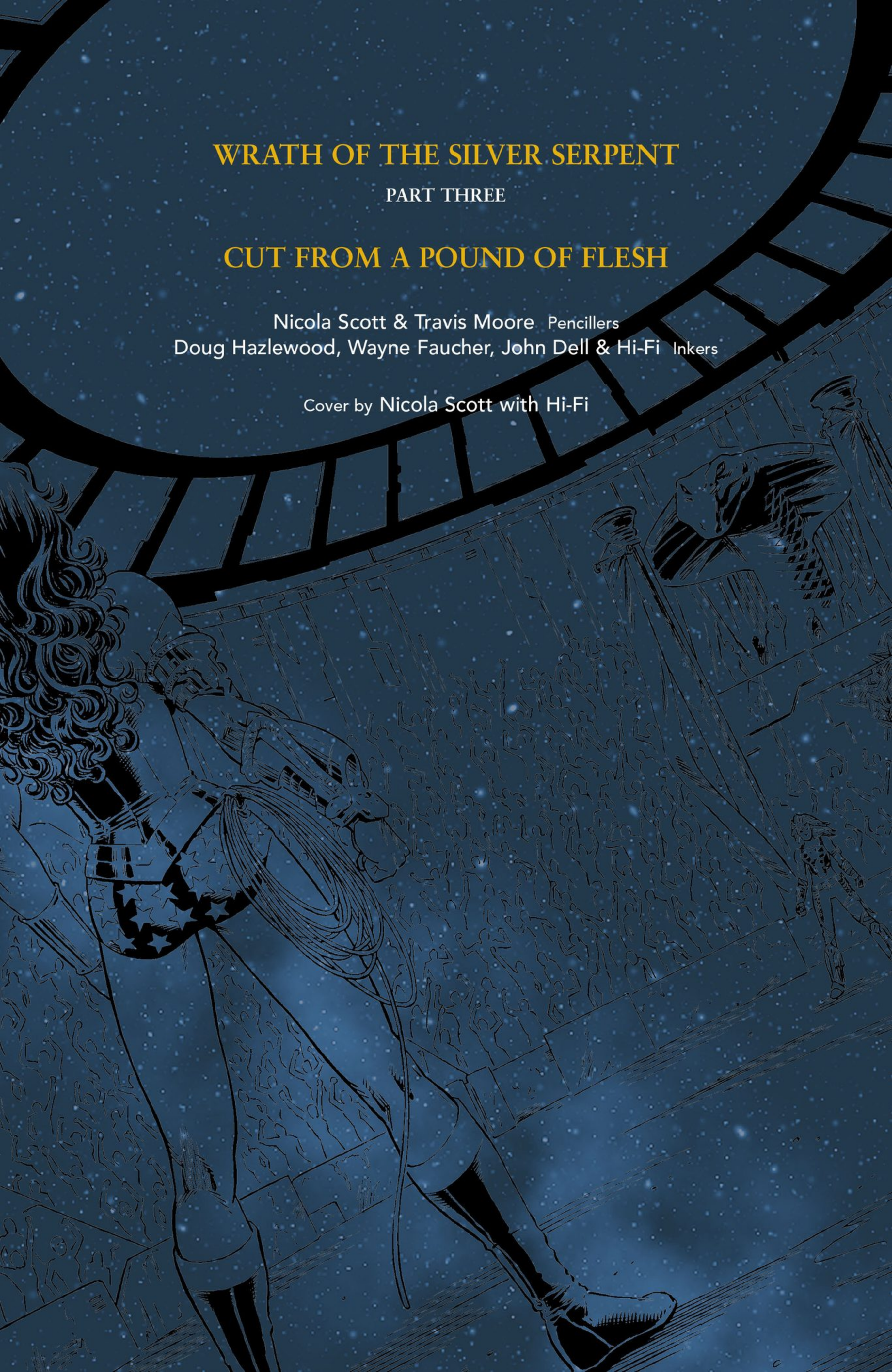
WRATH OF THE SILVER SERPENT

PART THREE

CUT FROM A POUND OF FLESH

Nicola Scott & Travis Moore Pencilers
Doug Hazlewood, Wayne Faucher, John Dell & Hi-Fi Inkers

Cover by Nicola Scott with Hi-Fi





A^N
ARENA.

I LONG AGO CAME
TO THE BELIEF THAT
WHEN I DIE, IT WILL
BE IN SUCH A PLACE.

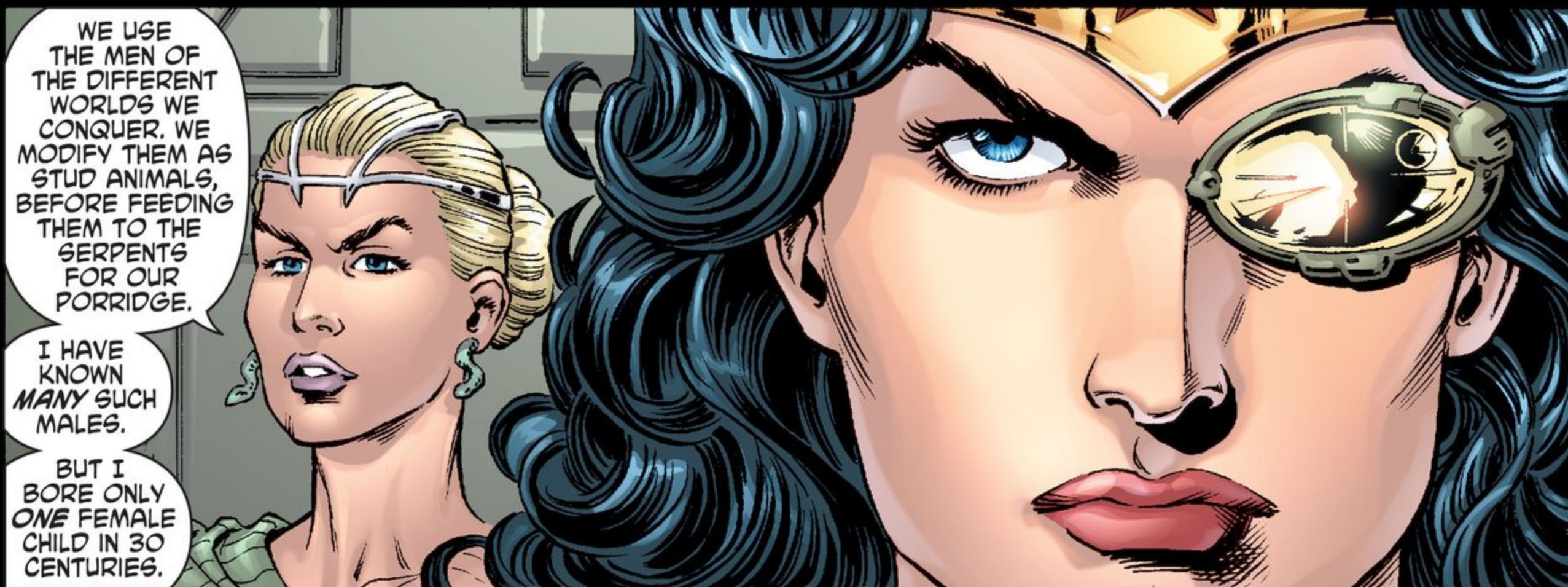
IN THREE THOUSAND
YEARS, PRECIOUS
FEW AMAZONS HAVE
DIED IN THEIR SLEEP,
SURROUNDED BY
THEIR LOVED ONES.

AND THIS THING, THIS SILENT
WARRIOR IN FRONT OF ME... IS
NOT JUST MY OPPONENT THIS
DAY. SHE IS THE DAUGHTER
OF MY MOTHER'S SISTER.

SHE IS MY
COUSIN.

AND ONE OF
US IS TO KILL
THE OTHER.

THE GODS' SENSE
OF HUMOR IS A BIT
CRUEL SOMETIMES.



WE USE THE MEN OF THE DIFFERENT WORLDS WE CONQUER. WE MODIFY THEM AS STUD ANIMALS, BEFORE FEEDING THEM TO THE SERPENTS FOR OUR PORRIDGE.

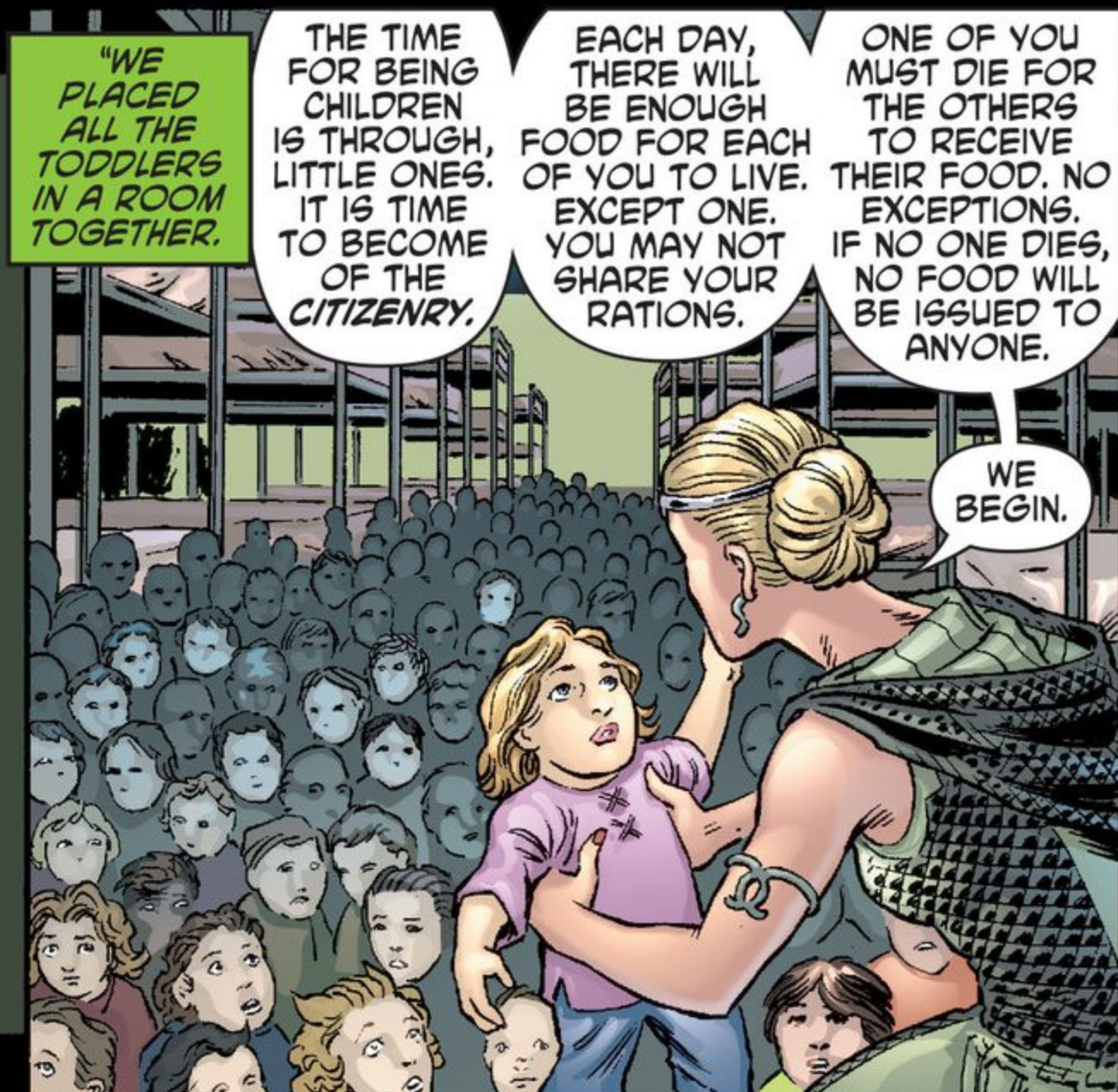
I HAVE KNOWN MANY SUCH MALES.

BUT I BORE ONLY ONE FEMALE CHILD IN 30 CENTURIES.



I RAISED HER PERSONALLY, AGAINST PROTOCOL, UNTIL SHE WAS TWO.

THEN WE BEGAN OUR EXPERIMENTS.



"WE PLACED ALL THE TODDLERS IN A ROOM TOGETHER.

THE TIME FOR BEING CHILDREN IS THROUGH, LITTLE ONES. IT IS TIME TO BECOME OF THE CITIZENRY.

EACH DAY, THERE WILL BE ENOUGH FOOD FOR EACH OF YOU TO LIVE. EXCEPT ONE. YOU MAY NOT SHARE YOUR RATIONS.

ONE OF YOU MUST DIE FOR THE OTHERS TO RECEIVE THEIR FOOD. NO EXCEPTIONS. IF NO ONE DIES, NO FOOD WILL BE ISSUED TO ANYONE.

WE BEGIN.



"WE ALLOWED THEM NO ADULT CONTACT, WE SIMPLY SLID THE FOOD THROUGH SLOTS IN THE GREAT DOOR.

"WHEN WE FINALLY OPENED THE DOOR, THREE YEARS LATER... ONLY MY DAUGHTER WAS STANDING.

"HER EDUCATION WAS COMPLETE."



YOU MADE YOUR DAUGHTER A MURDERER?

I MADE HER ROYALTY. SHE RULED THOSE CHILDREN. SHE BUILT AN ARMY AND THEN WHEN THE WEAK WERE ALL GONE, SHE KILLED HER OWN SOLDIERS HERSELF, ONE BY ONE.

EVERY DAY SINCE, SHE'S BEEN SUBJECTED TO EVERYTHING WE COULD INJECT HER WITH, PUNISH HER WITH.

AND SHE YET STANDS.



CAPTAIN, WE STILL HAVE TROOPS IN THE FIELD AND THEY ARE REPORTING RESISTANCE...

LIEUTENANT ZUGEN, SEND AROEITE AND HER SHOCK TROOPS. GO.

MY FAITH AND MY WORLDVIEW SAY THAT NO ONE IS IRREDEEMABLE.

BUT THIS SISTER OF MY MOTHER MAY WELL TEST THAT AXIOM.

BY THE UNIVERSAL RULES OF ENGAGEMENT, I AM ALLOWED A SECOND, IS THAT CORRECT?

FINE. BUT YOU MUST CHOOSE ONE OF THE CITIZENRY, EARTHLING.

EXACTLY WHAT I HAD IN MIND, ASTARTE.

I CHOOSE YOUR LIEUTENANT, CAPTAIN.

WHAT? I REFUSE! IT IS ABSURD!

YOU WILL NOT EMBARRASS ME, LIEUTENANT.

DO YOUR DUTY.

AND WHEN SHE LOSES...

...I WANT HER CHAINED, RENAMED, AND REEDUCATED.

YES, CAPTAIN. AS YOU COMMAND.

WELL, MY SECOND. HAVE YOU ANY ADVICE FOR ME?

YES. PRAY FOR A QUICK DEATH.

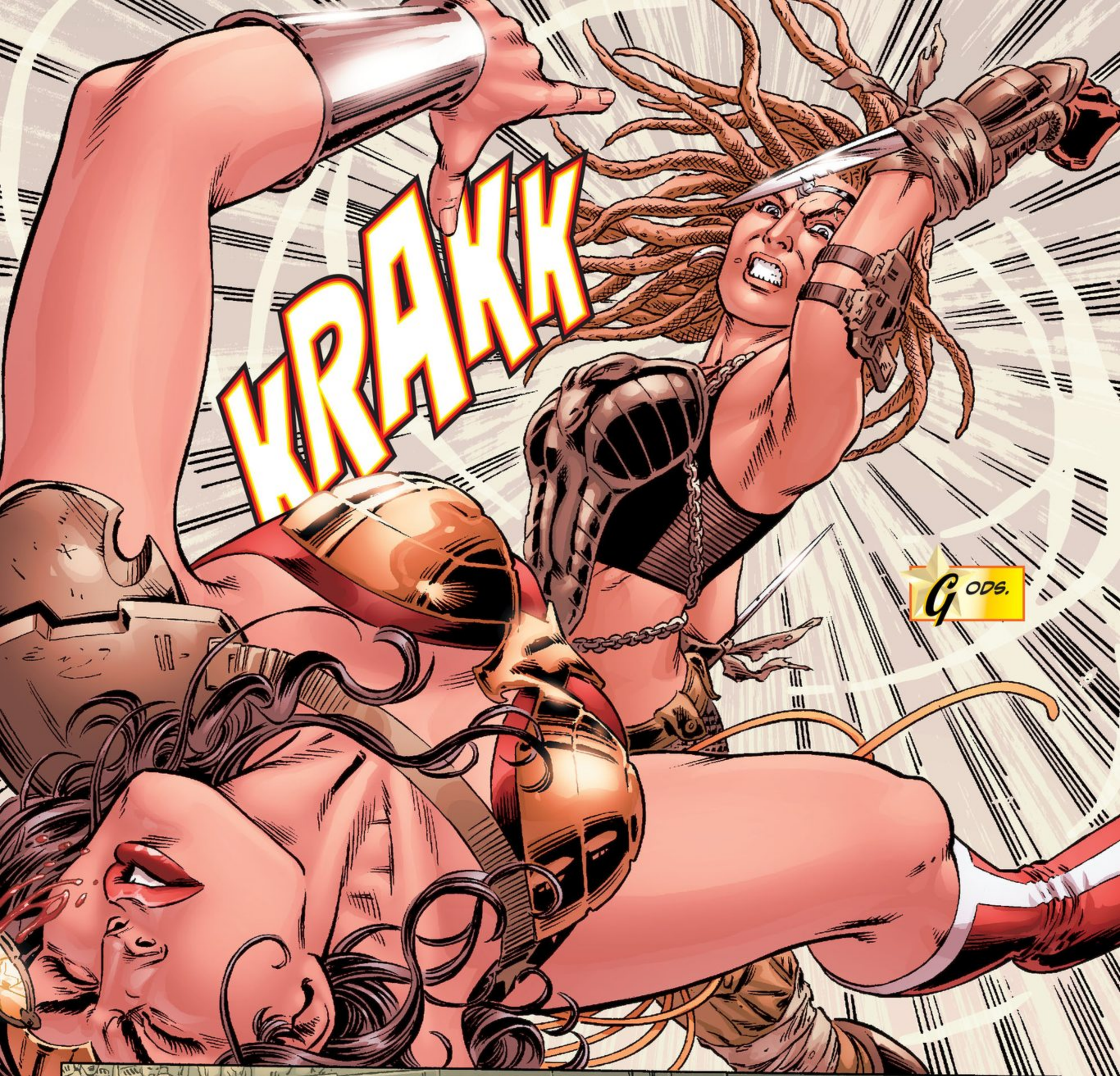
WARRIOR. THEANA.

WE ARE BOUND BY THE SHARED BLOOD OF OUR MOTHERS.

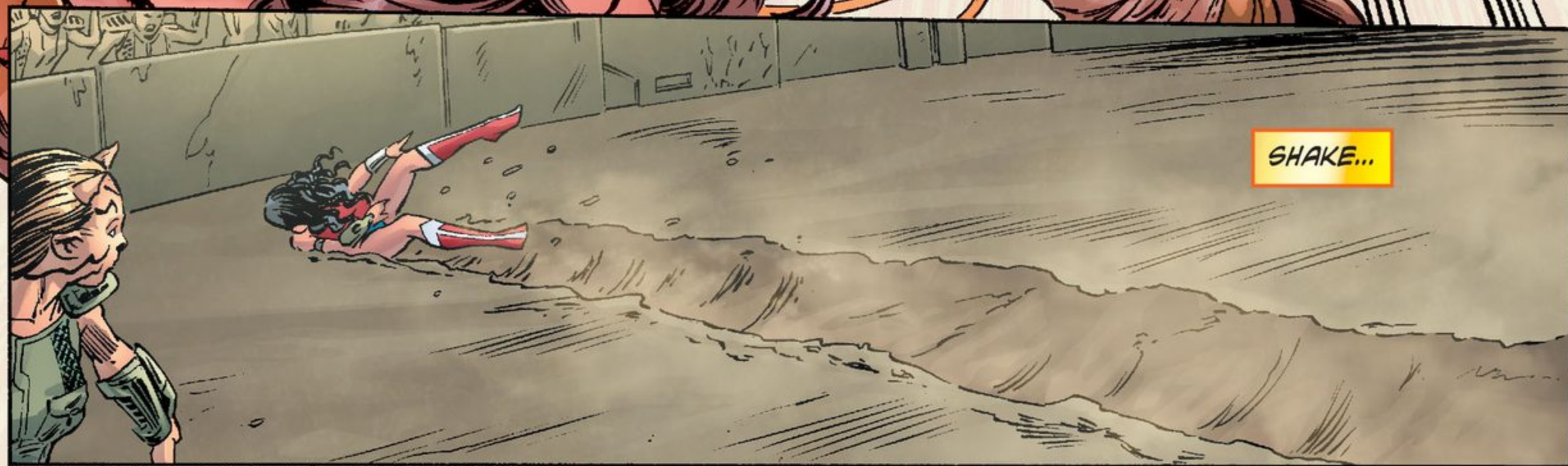
I'M CERTAIN I KNOW THE ANSWER TO THE QUESTION I AM ABOUT TO ASK.

THAT DOES NOT ABSOLVE ME OF MY RESPONSIBILITY TO TRY.

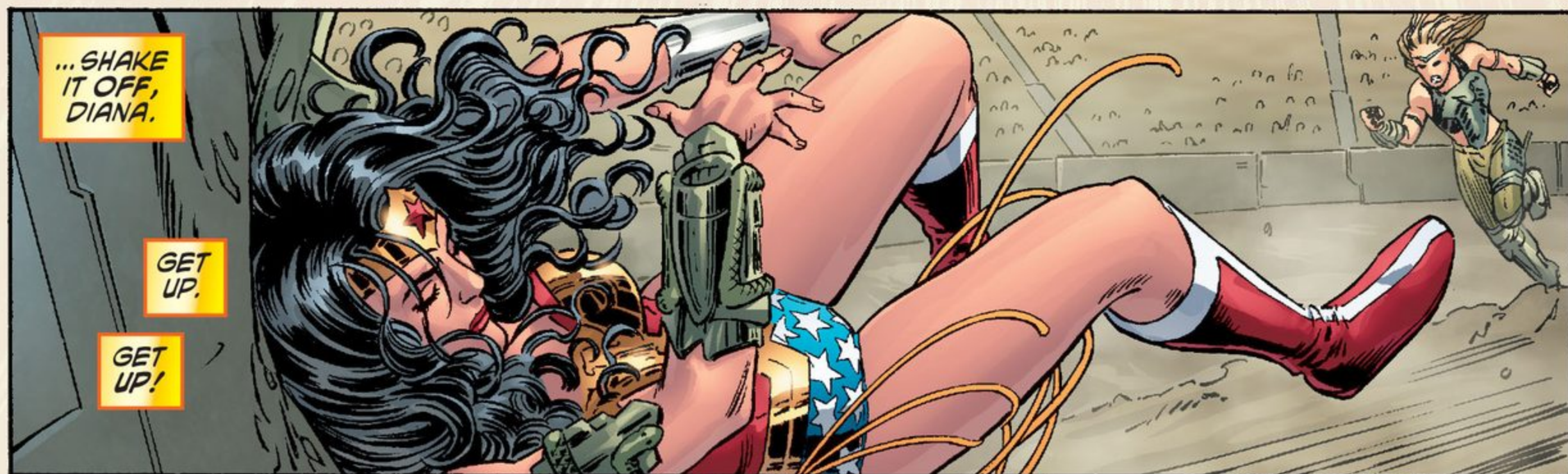
CAN THERE BE PEACE BETWEEN US?



GODS.



SHAKE...



... SHAKE IT OFF, DIANA.

GET UP.

GET UP!



S HE...

SHE
KNOWS
WHAT
HURTS.



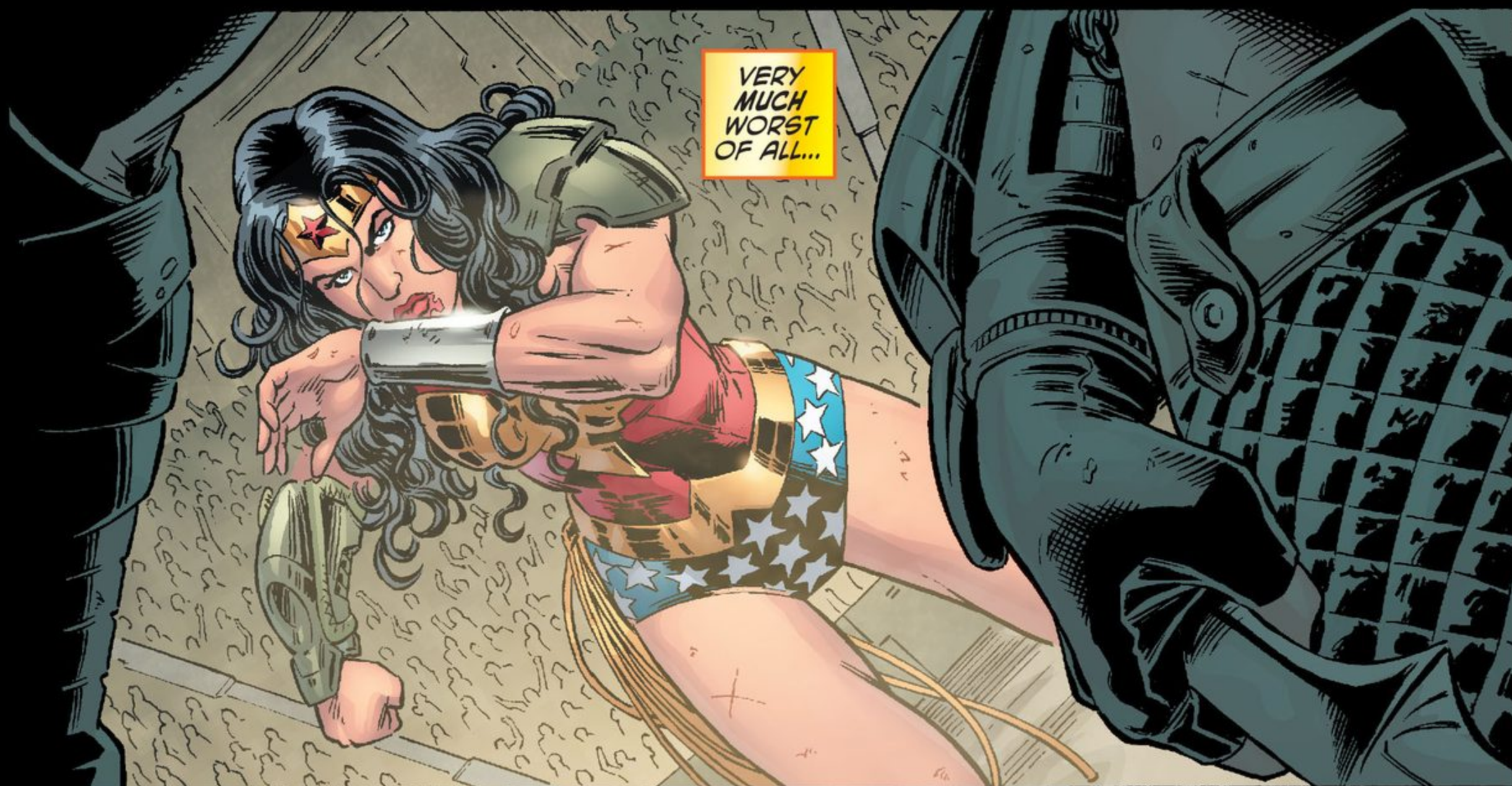
AND
SHE'S
FAST.



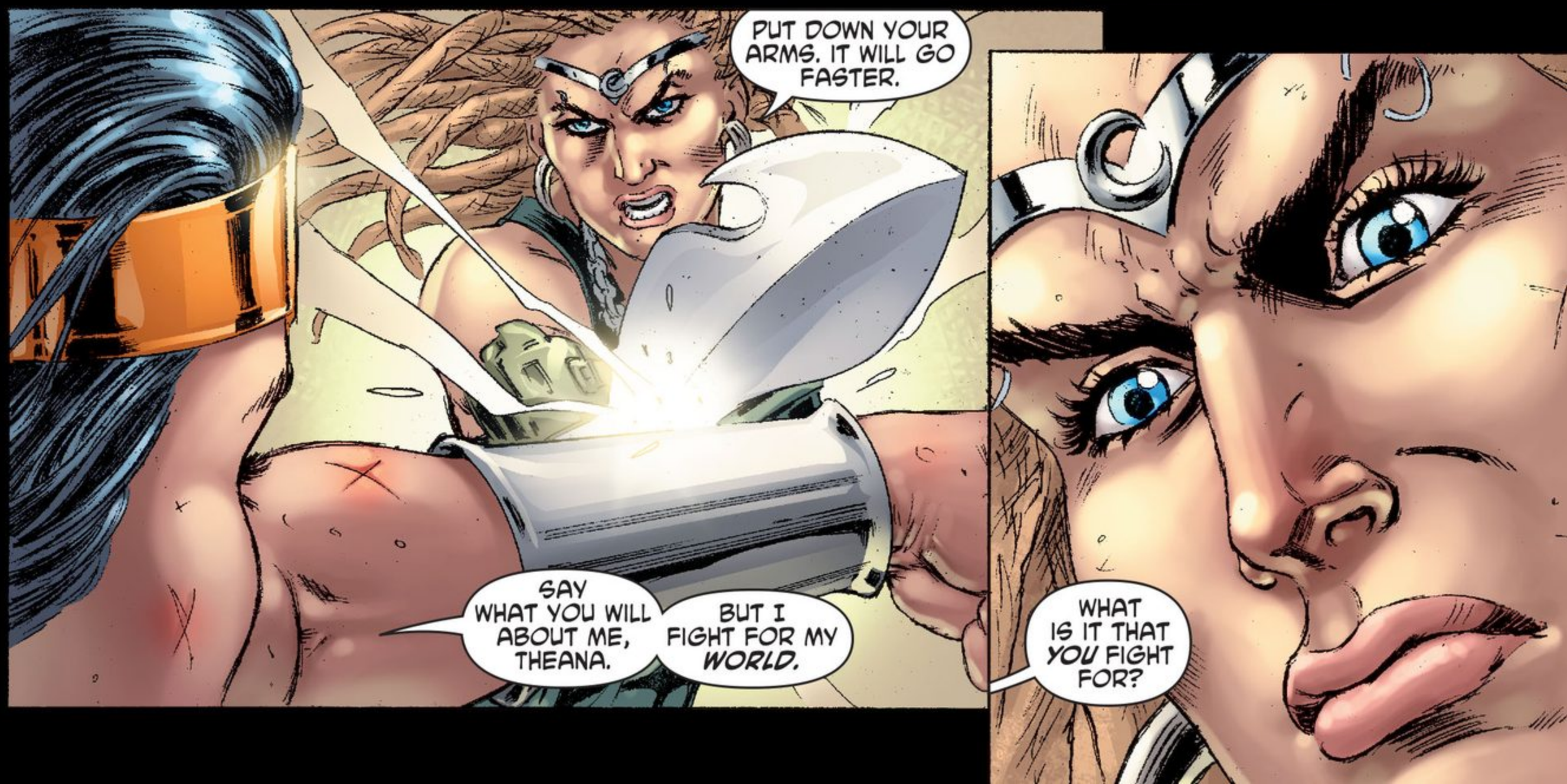
AND
STRONG.

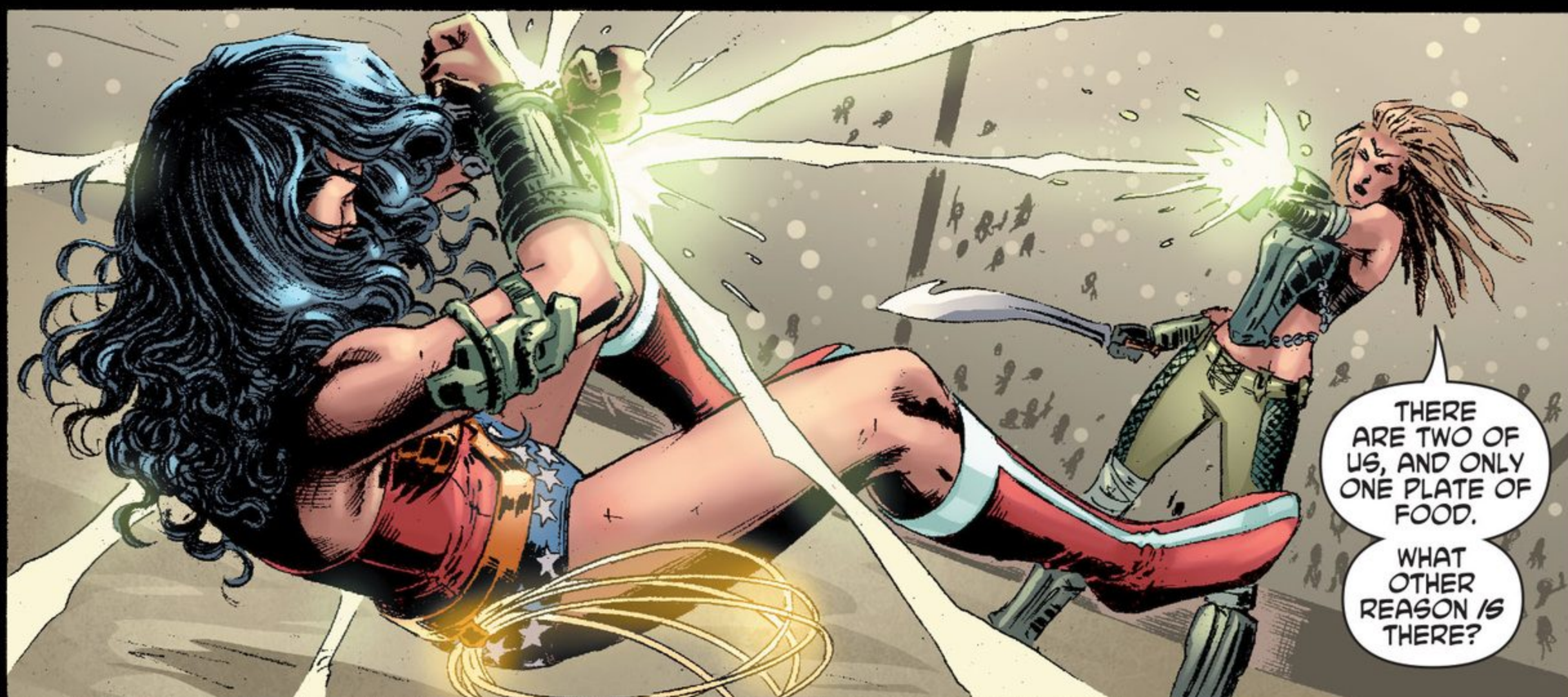


AND
WORST
OF ALL.



VERY
MUCH
WORST
OF ALL...





THERE ARE TWO OF US, AND ONLY ONE PLATE OF FOOD.
WHAT OTHER REASON IS THERE?



NEVER FELT SUCH PAIN.

DO THEY RAISE ONLY FOOLS ON THIS PLANET?

YOU CAN'T BEAT THE BEAST OF HOLD 17 WITH YOUR HANDS.



USE YOUR WEAPONS. FIGHT AS A CITIZEN.

ZUSEN.

LISTEN TO ME.

YOU CAN'T LIE IN MY LASSO'S PRESENCE. I KNOW YOU HATE WHAT YOU HAVE DONE.



YOU MUST DO AS I SAY, OR THIS WILL NEVER, EVER END.

ARE YOU MAD?
I CAN'T.



YOU CAN AND YOU WILL.

YOU'VE TAKEN ASTARTE'S ORDERS YOUR ENTIRE EXISTENCE.

NOW YOU WILL TAKE MINE.

WHAT
IS IT YOU
WANT?

I WANT YOU TO OPEN
TWO PORTALS IN THE BARRIER.
BRIEFLY, WITHOUT YOUR
CAPTAIN'S KNOWLEDGE.

THERE'S A MAN
I WANT YOU TO GET
A MESSAGE TO, ON
THE OUTSIDE.

A MAN? HOW
WOULD I FIND THIS SINGLE
MALE AMONG THE MANY?

"OH, I'M
SURE YOUR
FIGHTERS ARE
ALREADY WELL
ACQUAINTED
WITH HIM,
LIEUTENANT
ZUSEN."

COME AND
FIGHT ME,
COWARDS OF
THE SKY!
YOUR DEATH
BECKONS TO
YOU ALL!

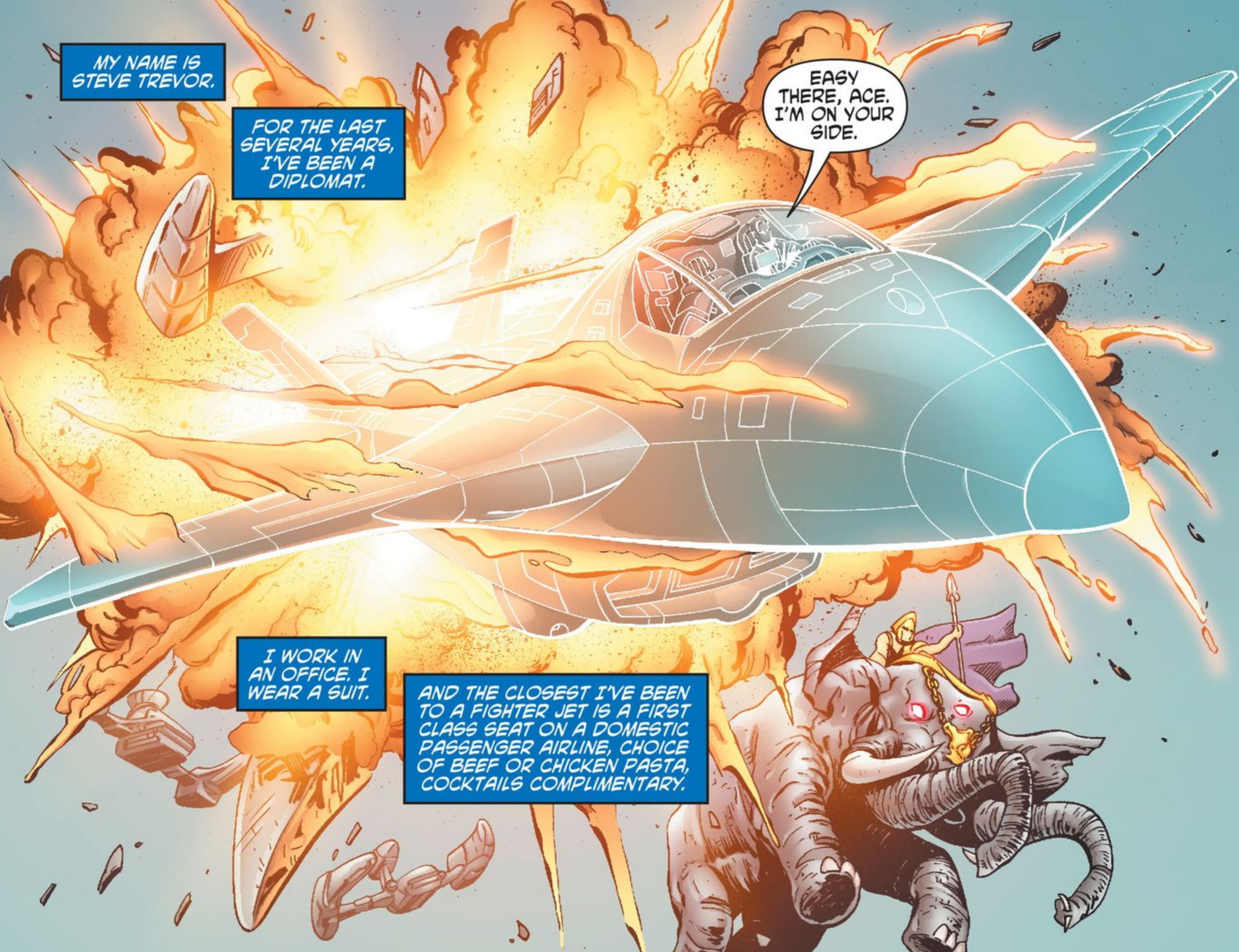


URR.

ATTACKING
FROM BEHIND.

LET
US MEET
OUR FATES
TOGETHER,
THEN.





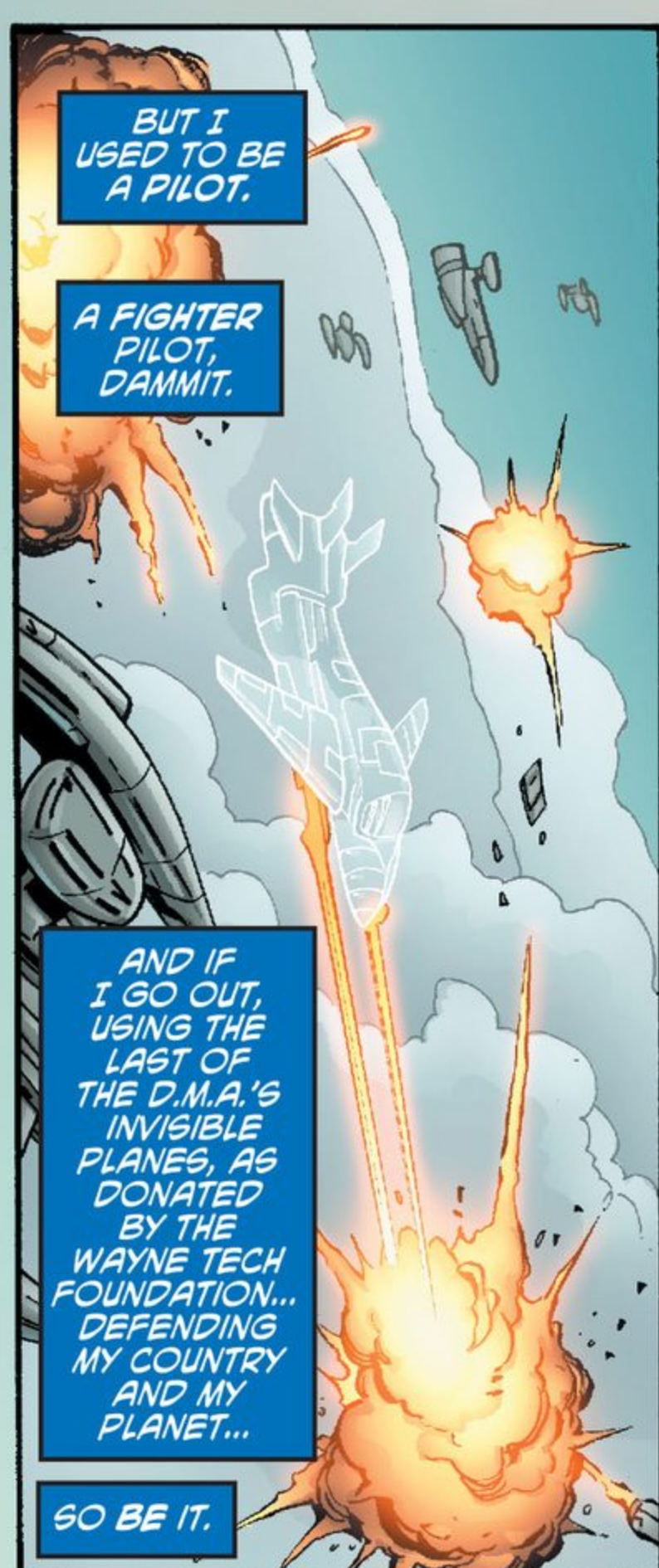
MY NAME IS
STEVE TREVOR.

FOR THE LAST
SEVERAL YEARS,
I'VE BEEN A
DIPLOMAT.

EASY
THERE, ACE.
I'M ON YOUR
SIDE.

I WORK IN
AN OFFICE. I
WEAR A SUIT.

AND THE CLOSEST I'VE BEEN
TO A FIGHTER JET IS A FIRST
CLASS SEAT ON A DOMESTIC
PASSENGER AIRLINE, CHOICE
OF BEEF OR CHICKEN PASTA,
COCKTAILS COMPLIMENTARY.



BUT I
USED TO BE
A PILOT.

A FIGHTER
PILOT,
DAMMIT.

AND IF
I GO OUT,
USING THE
LAST OF
THE D.M.A.'S
INVISIBLE
PLANES, AS
DONATED
BY THE
WAYNE TECH
FOUNDATION...
DEFENDING
MY COUNTRY
AND MY
PLANET...

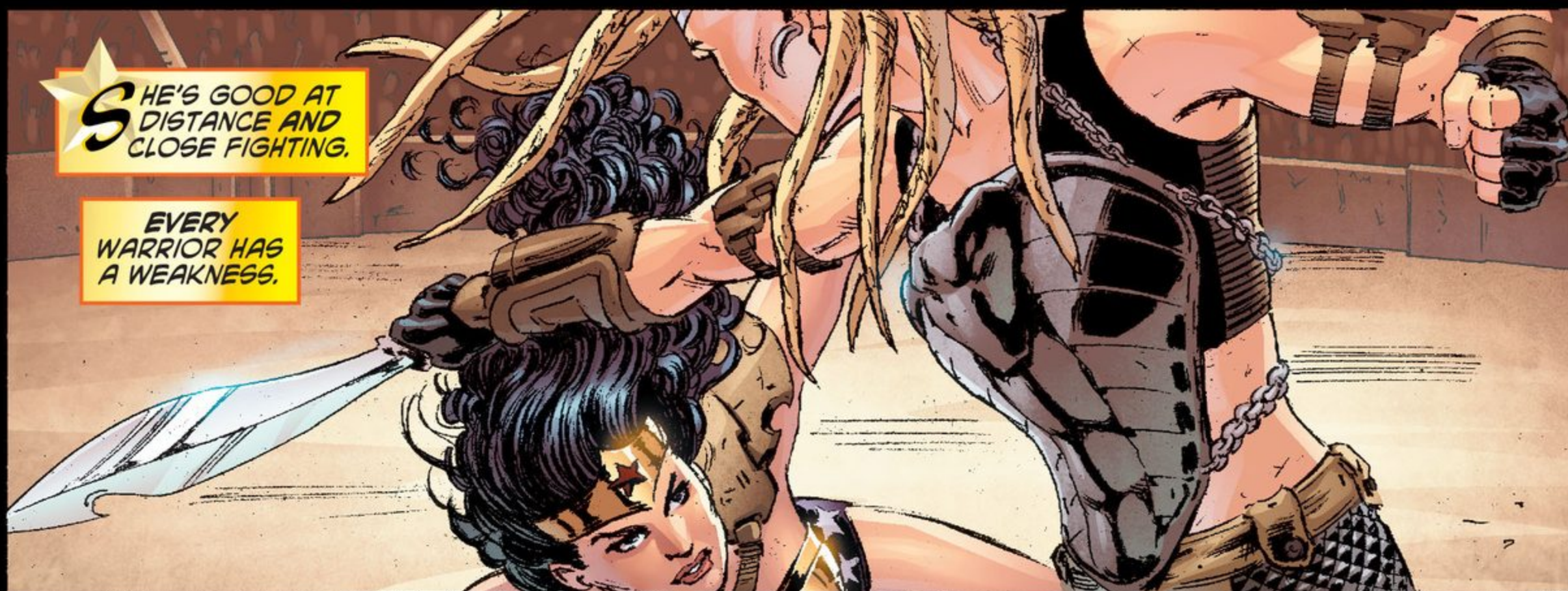
SO BE IT.



COME
ON.

LET'S SHOW
THEM WHO THE
SKY BELONGS
TO.

I COULD
KINDA GET
USED TO IT.



SHE'S GOOD AT
DISTANCE AND
CLOSE FIGHTING.

EVERY
WARRIOR HAS
A WEAKNESS.



MAYBE HER'S IS
EMOTIONAL.

I
MUST SAY,
THEANA.
YOU DON'T
SEEM TO HAVE
THOUGHT THIS
THROUGH.



HAVE YOU EVER
CONSIDERED...

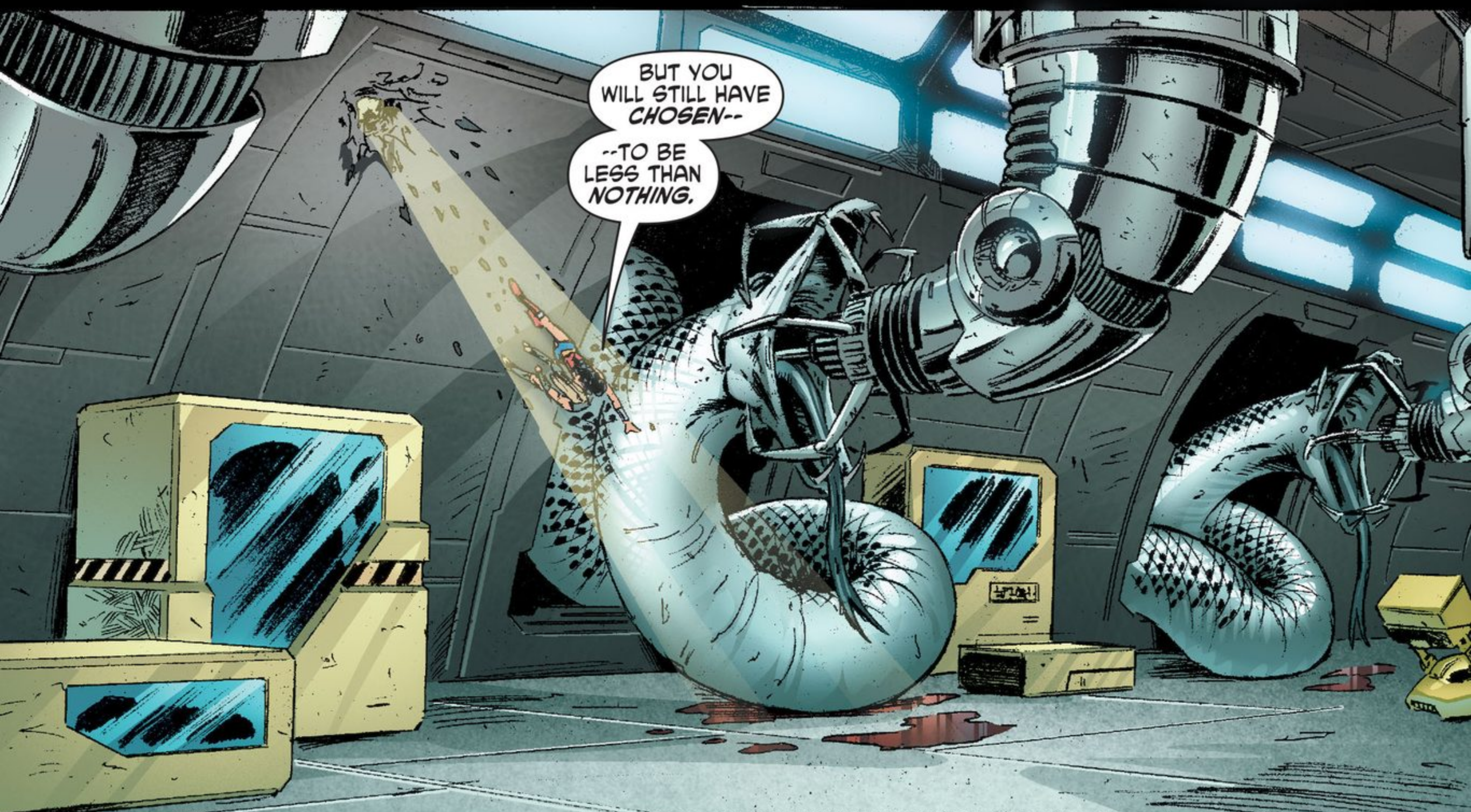
...WHAT
HAPPENS IF
YOU WIN?



YOU'LL STILL
BE NOTHING BUT
WHAT YOU ARE
ORDERED TO
BE.

WITH NO
MORE FREE
WILL THAN THE
LOWEST
VERMIN.

YOU
MAY WIN IN
THIS ARENA,
COUSIN.



BUT YOU
WILL STILL HAVE
CHOSEN--

--TO BE
LESS THAN
NOTHING.



BE STILL.

NO WAR WORTH WAGING IS FOUGHT WITH SO MUCH TALK.



THAT MIGHT BE THE WISEST THING YOU WILL EVER SAY, COUSIN.

YOU DO KNOW YOU'RE LIKE ME, DON'T YOU?

YOUR MOTHER DREAMS OF OLYMPUS.



THAT IS A LIE. SHE HATES THIS WORLD.

MY MOTHER WAS CREATED AS AN WOMAN, NOT A CHILD.

ASTARTE HAS FORGOTTEN, BUT SHE **MUST** HAVE BEEN AN **AMAZON**.

RENAMING THOSE AROUND HER WITH THE HALF-FORGOTTEN NAMES OF OUR GODS.



"ZUSEN" FROM "ZEUS."

"AROEITE" FROM "APHRODITE."

AND YOUR NAME...



... COMES
FROM
ATHENA.

GODDESS OF
CIVILIZATION.



AND
WISDOM.

IT IS
A LIE.

SHE
LIVES ONLY...
ONLY FOR OUR
PRINCIPLES!



THEANA.

COUSIN.



WHAT
ARE THOSE
PRINCIPLES?

REVENGE?
CRUELTY?



WHAT
EXACTLY IS
THE MEANING
OF YOUR LIFE IN
THIS UNIVERSE,
THEANA?



SHE...
SHE'S...

ARE
HER WORDS
CALMING THE
BEAST?

IT IS NOT
A VICTORY I
ACKNOWLEDGE.
SEND DOWN ALL
FIGHTERS.

AND HAVE
MY DAUGHTER
DESTROYED
IMMEDIATELY.



COMPASSION.

WE HAVE STUDIED THIS.

IT WON'T WORK ON ME, MUDLING.



NO?

I THINK YOU UNDERESTIMATE COMPASSION AS A TACTICAL EXERCISE.

MOST PARTICULARLY...



...WHEN WEDDED TO FIREPOWER AND SUPERIOR POSITION.



I ALREADY KNOW YOUR ENERGY WEAPONS CAN PIERCE YOUR ARMOR.

AND I KNOW WHERE YOUR VITAL ORGANS ARE.

GO AHEAD AND THRUST, IF YOU LIKE.



HMMPH.
PERHAPS
WE DO SHARE
COMMON BLOOD,
AFTER ALL.
COUSIN.

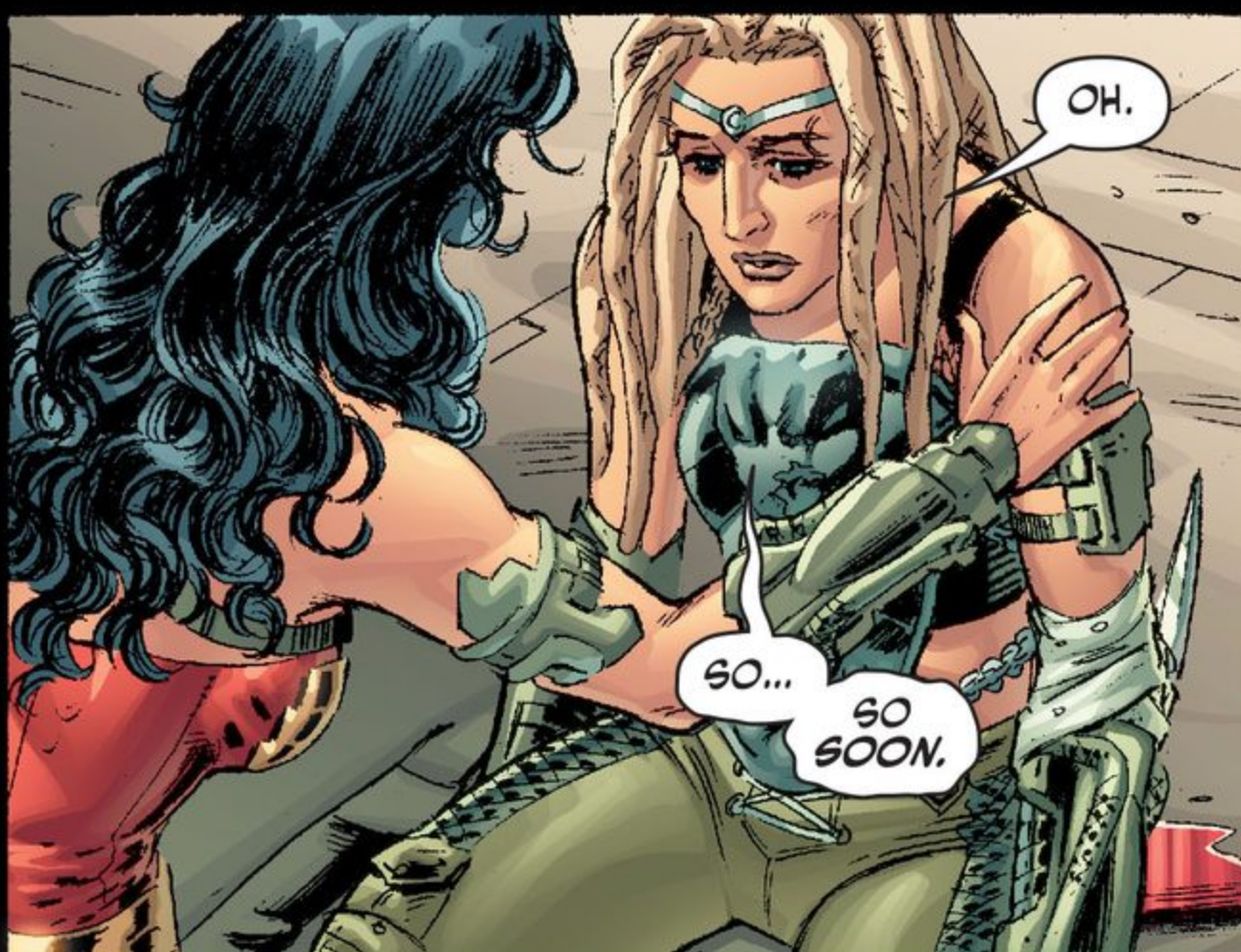


LLGK...

THEANA!

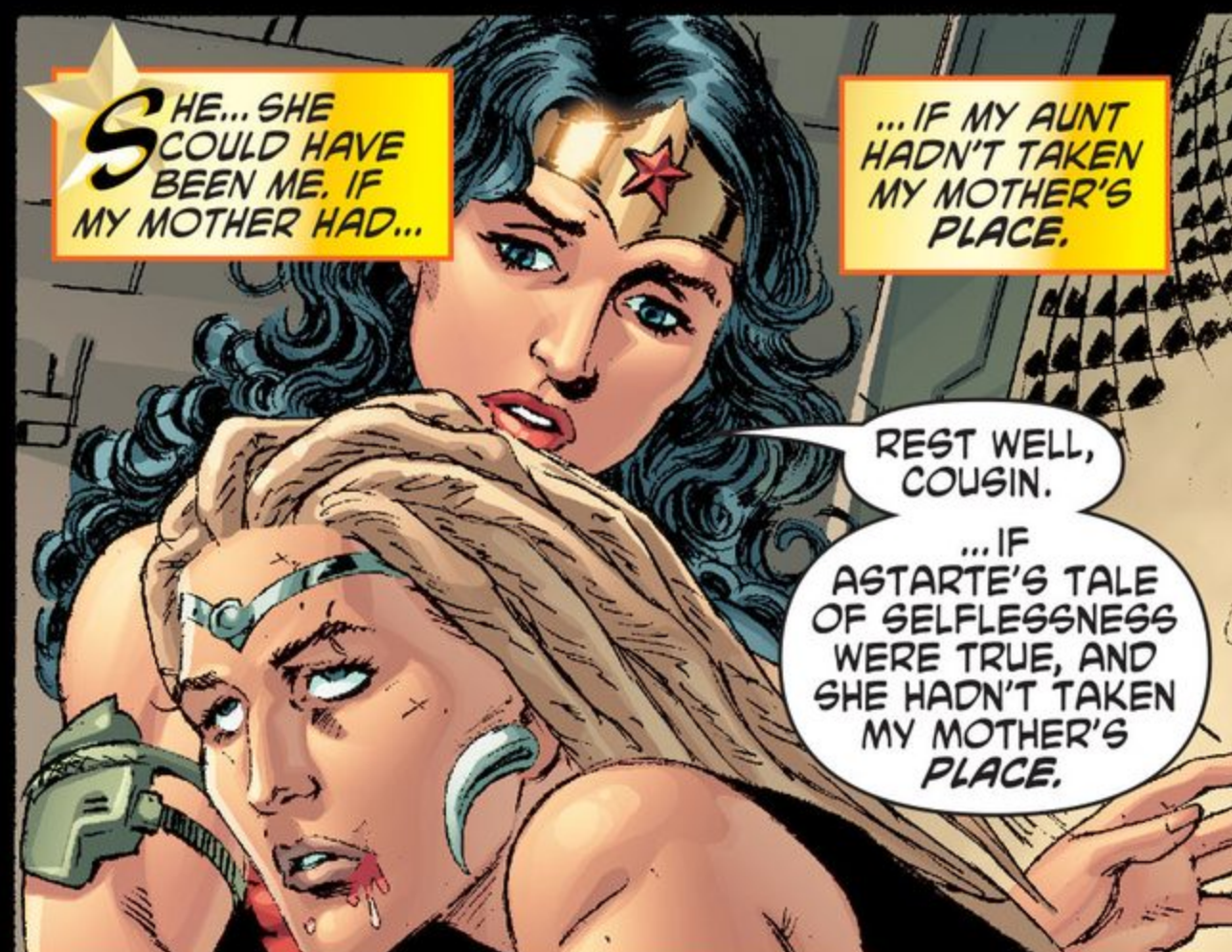


BE PREPARED
TO FIRE AGAIN.
SHOOT TO
KILL.



OH.

SO...
SO SOON.



SHE... SHE
COULD HAVE
BEEN ME. IF
MY MOTHER HAD...

... IF MY AUNT
HADN'T TAKEN
MY MOTHER'S
PLACE.

REST WELL,
COUSIN.

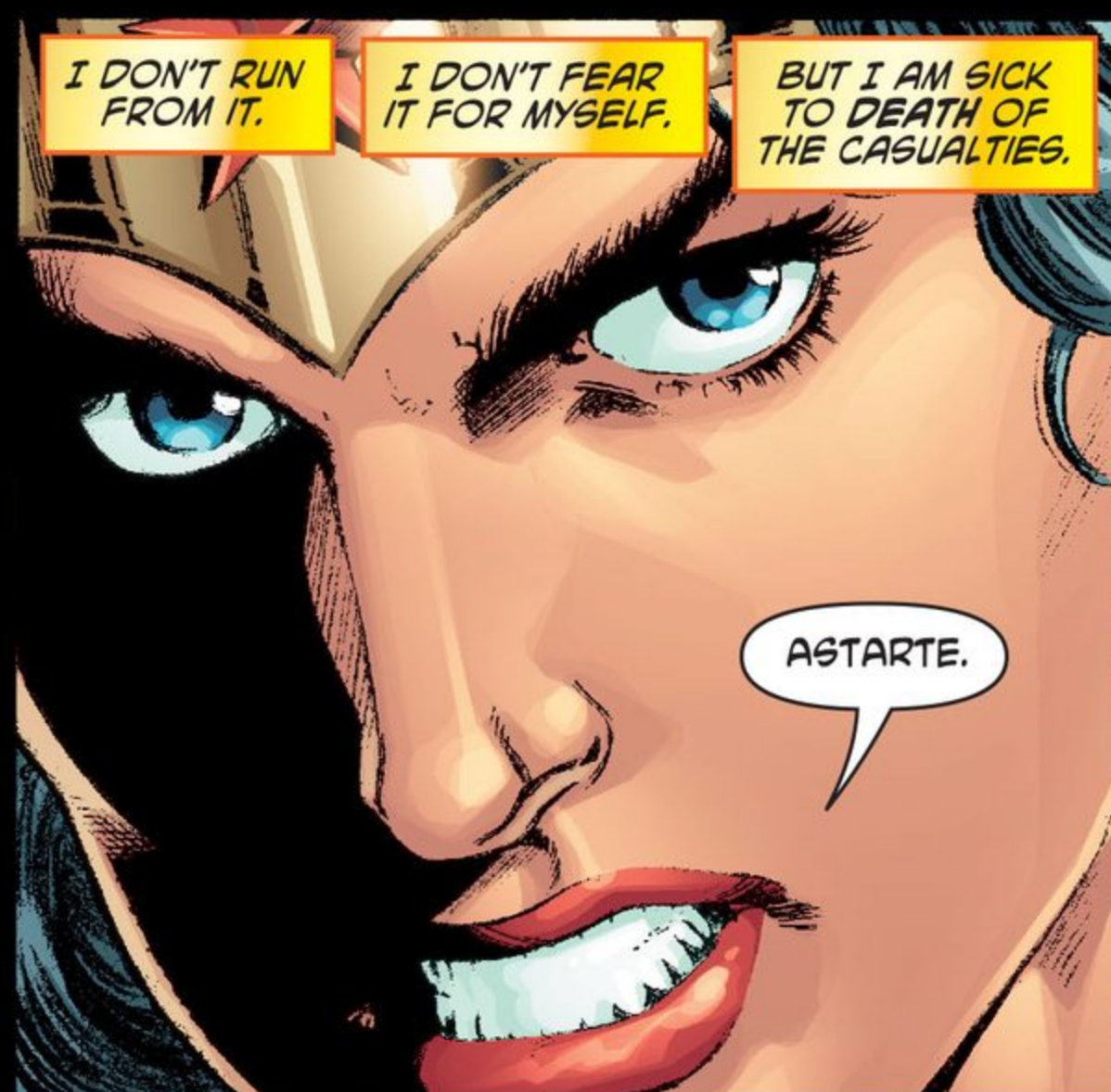
... IF
ASTARTE'S TALE
OF SELFLESSNESS
WERE TRUE, AND
SHE HADN'T TAKEN
MY MOTHER'S
PLACE.



YOU GO
TO YOUR REST
UNDEFEATED.

WAR.

IT MAKES
FOOD OF
US ALL, AND
IT IS EVER
RAPACIOUS.



I DON'T RUN
FROM IT.

I DON'T FEAR
IT FOR MYSELF.

BUT I AM SICK
TO DEATH OF
THE CASUALTIES.

ASTARTE.



ASTARTE.

I WILL NEVER
BELIEVE THAT THIS
WOMAN'S BLOOD
IS COMMON WITH
MY QUEEN'S.

I
CAN'T.

I
WON'T.



HER
BLOOD
IS ICE.

FIRE,
DAMN YOU
ALL!

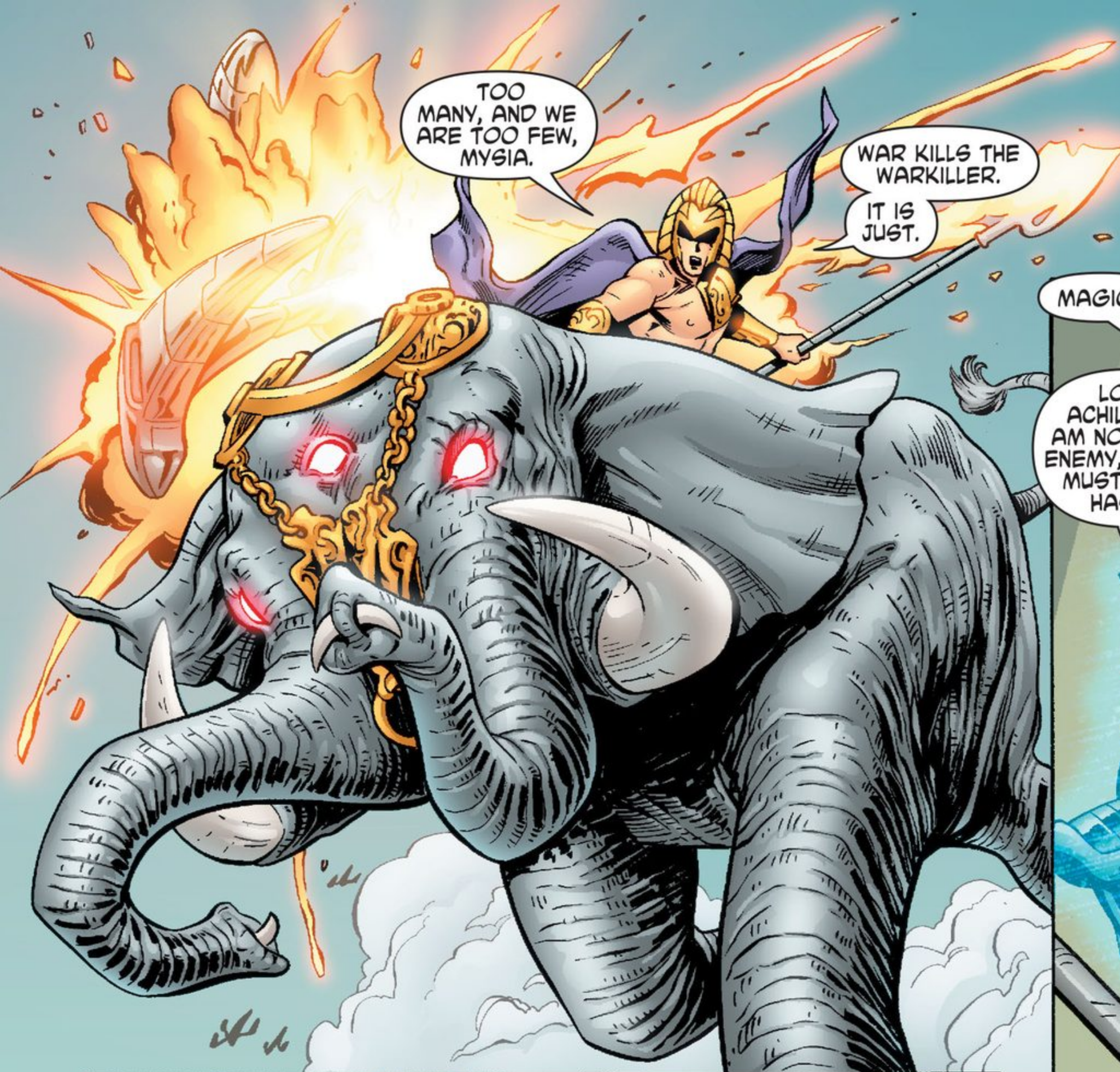
FIRE!

KILL
HER!



AMAZON
BLOOD...

...IS
FIRE.



TOO MANY, AND WE ARE TOO FEW, MYGIA.

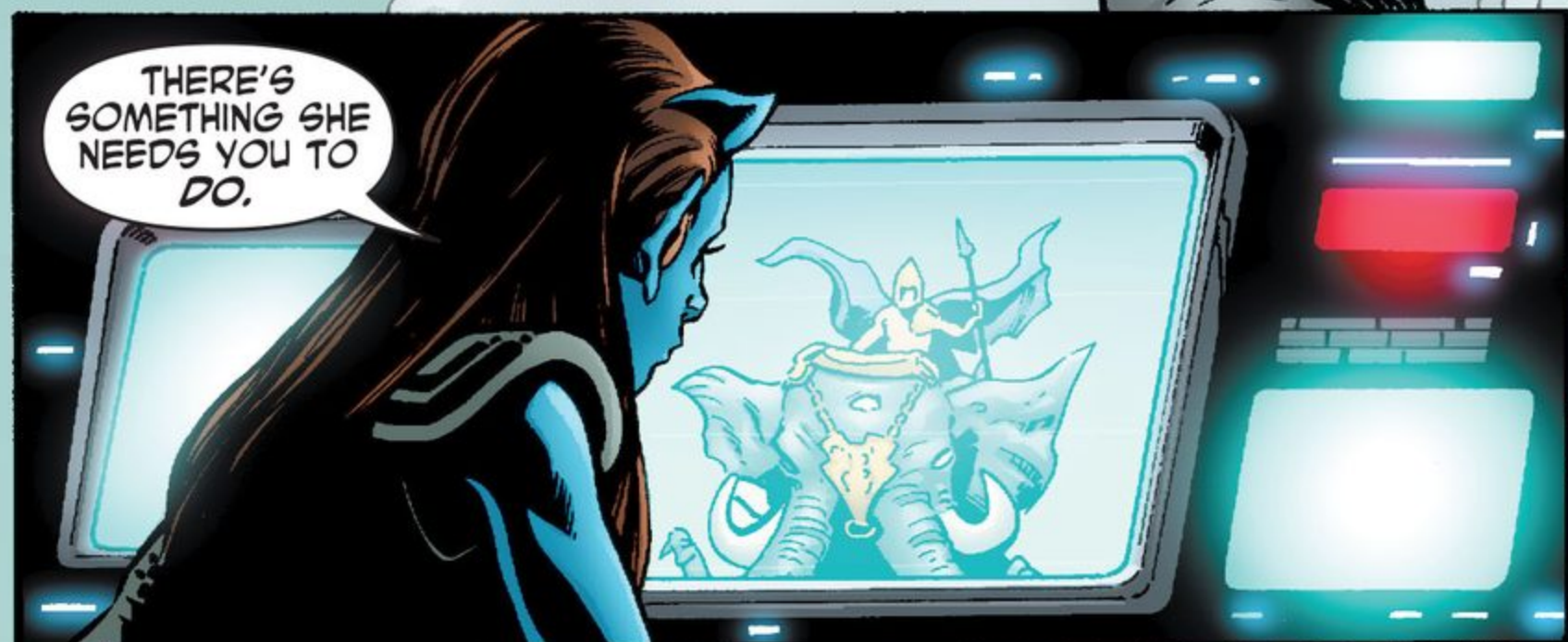
WAR KILLS THE WARKILLER.
IT IS JUST.



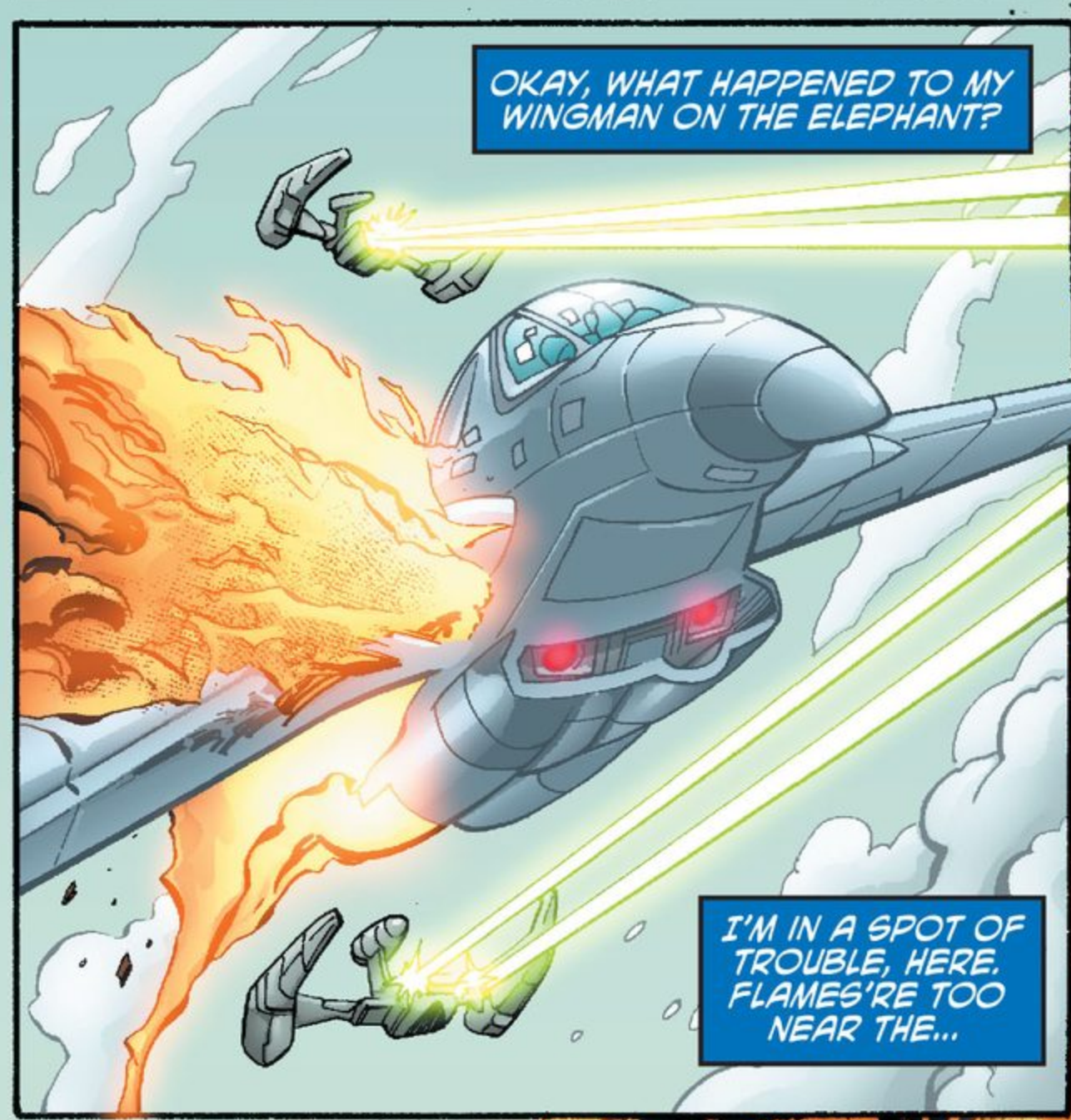
MAGIC?

LORD ACHILLES. I AM NOT YOUR ENEMY, BUT WE MUST MAKE HASTE.

I HAVE WORD FROM THE PRINCESS.



THERE'S SOMETHING SHE NEEDS YOU TO DO.



OKAY, WHAT HAPPENED TO MY WINGMAN ON THE ELEPHANT?

I'M IN A SPOT OF TROUBLE, HERE. FLAMES'RE TOO NEAR THE...



BOOM

...ENGINE.

WELL... THERE GOES A HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS OF BRUCE WAYNE'S MONEY.

DAMN PLANE NEVER MADE A LICK OF SENSE ANYHOW.



OOHHHGK.

ALL RIGHT.



YOU WIN, ASTARTE.

IT'S WAR. BUT I'LL FIGHT IT MY WAY.

WITH MY WEAPONS.



CLOSE THIS PORTAL, HETESIA. A DEMON APPROACHES.

SPEND YOUR LIFE DISTRACTING HER, IF YOU CAN.

I WILL, CAPTAIN.



ASTARTE. WE NEED TO TALK.







CAPTAIN.

IT MAKES YOU
OUR CAPTAIN.



TRAITOR!



SILENCE,
NON-CITIZEN.

YOUR VOICE
WILL NO LONGER
BE HEARD, BY YOUR
OWN LAW.

YOU WILL
BE EXECUTED
IMMEDIATELY.



SHE WILL
NOT.

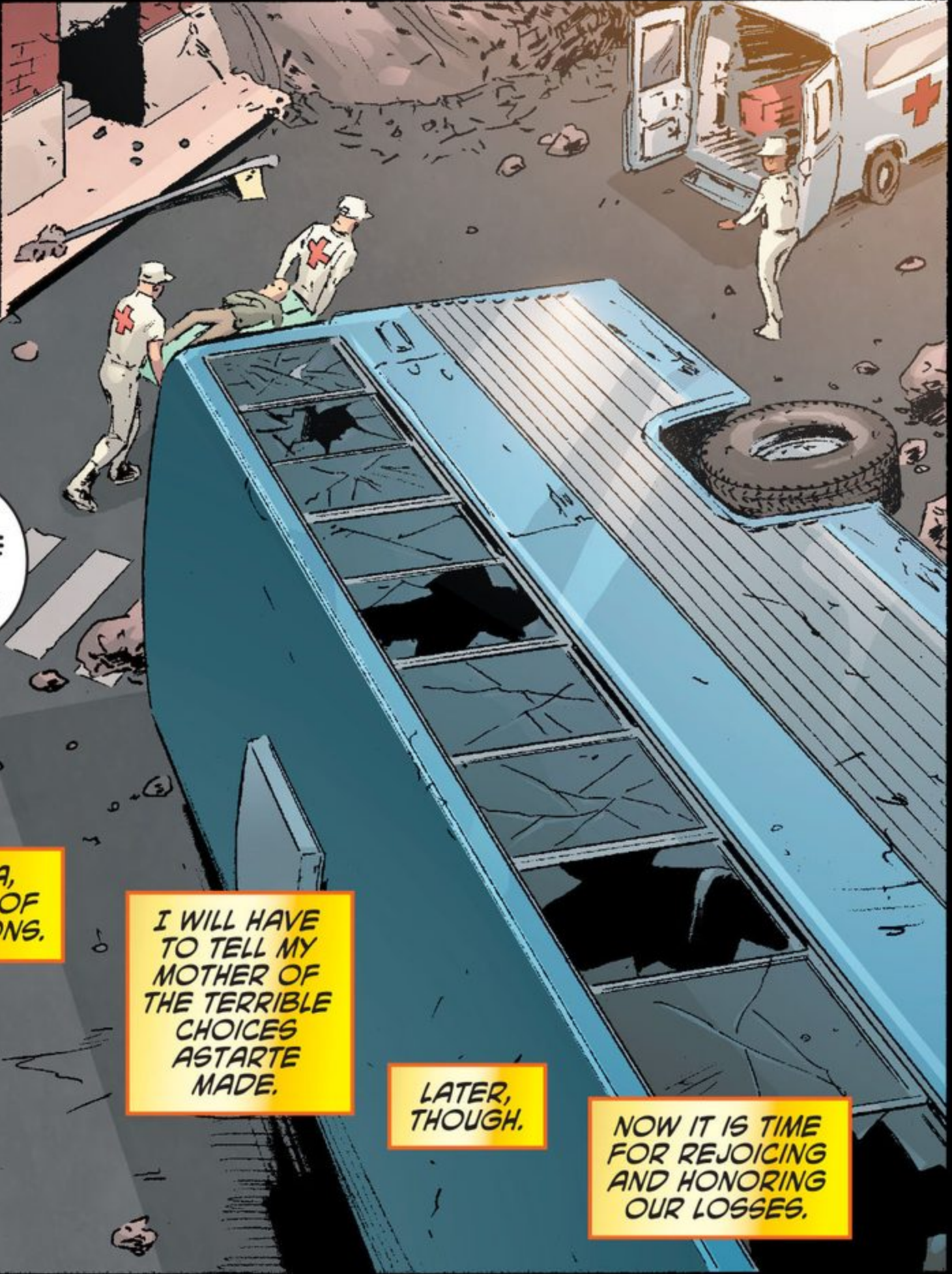
SHE'S GOING
WITH ME TO
THEMYSCIRA TO
BE REFORMED.
THE CITIZENRY
WILL NEVER
AGAIN KILL,
FOR ANY REASON.

YOU WILL
FIND YOUR
RESOURCES ON
UNINHABITED
PLANETS.

OR NEXT
TIME IT'LL
BE YOU IN THE
ARENA WITH ME,
LIEUTENANT.



... SEEMINGLY
ENDLESS REPORTS
OF WASHINGTONIANS
BEING SAVED BY
AMAZONS, IN SOME
CASES AT THE
EXPENSE OF THEIR
OWN LIVES...



YOU
TRUST THEM
TO STAY AWAY?
THE CITIZENRY,
I MEAN?



NO. BUT
I TRUST MY
INTIMIDATION
SKILLS.

MOST OF
THEM WEREN'T
BORN KILLERS. LIKE
MOST SOLDIERS,
THEY'D RATHER BE
ELSEWHERE.

THIS IS THEIR
CHANCE.

9 AM DIANA,
PRINCESS OF
THE AMAZONS.

I WILL HAVE
TO TELL MY
MOTHER OF
THE TERRIBLE
CHOICES
ASTARTE
MADE.

LATER,
THOUGH.

NOW IT IS TIME
FOR REJOICING
AND HONORING
OUR LOSSES.



HEY, AS LONG
AS THEY TAKE
THEIR CHANCE
SOMEWHERE
ELSE...

DIANA.

MY BIRTH
WAS NOT
BY NATURAL
MEANS.

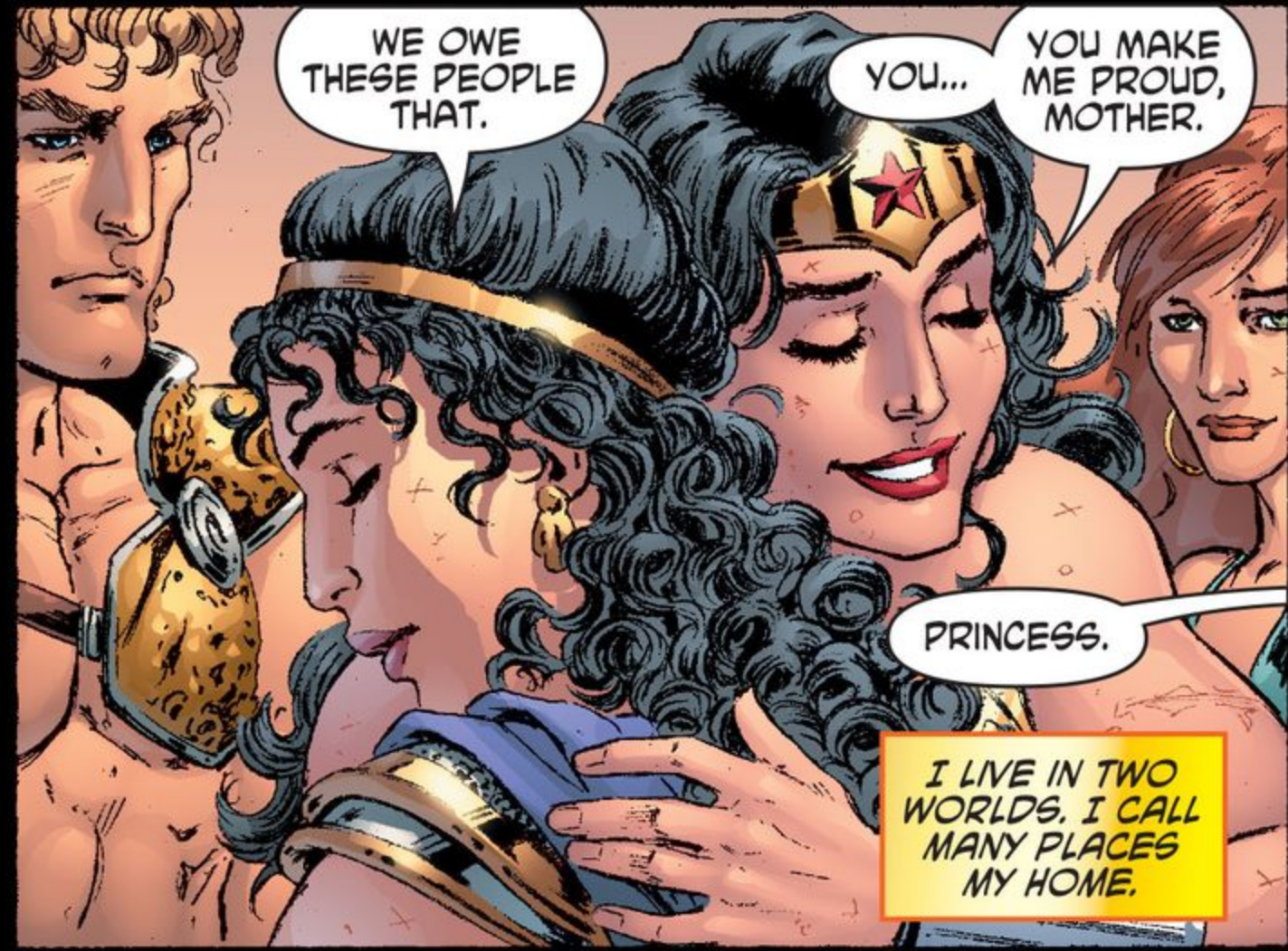


AH. THE
HEROES OF
THE DAY.

ARE YOU GOING BACK
NOW? SAY HELLO TO SWIFTMAN
AND STEALTHFIN FOR ME,
WOULD YOU?

WE'RE
STAYING,
DAUGHTER.

TO HELP
CLEAR THE
DAMAGE. TO
REBUILD.



WE OWE
THESE PEOPLE
THAT.

YOU...

YOU MAKE
ME PROUD,
MOTHER.

PRINCESS.

I LIVE IN TWO
WORLDS. I CALL
MANY PLACES
MY HOME.



TOLIFHAR?

OUR PEOPLE
HEARD OF WHAT
WE'VE DONE HERE,
PRINCESS.

WE
HAVE...

WE
HAVE BEEN
FORGIVEN.

BY ALL RIGHTS, I SHOULD BE ALONE EVERYWHERE I GO.

WE'RE GOING HOME.

AND YET...

... I FIND I AM NOT.

THE REST OF YOU, COME TO ME. ALL OF YOU.

INSTEAD, I FIND LOVE IN EVERY DIRECTION I LOOK.

ALL OF YOU.

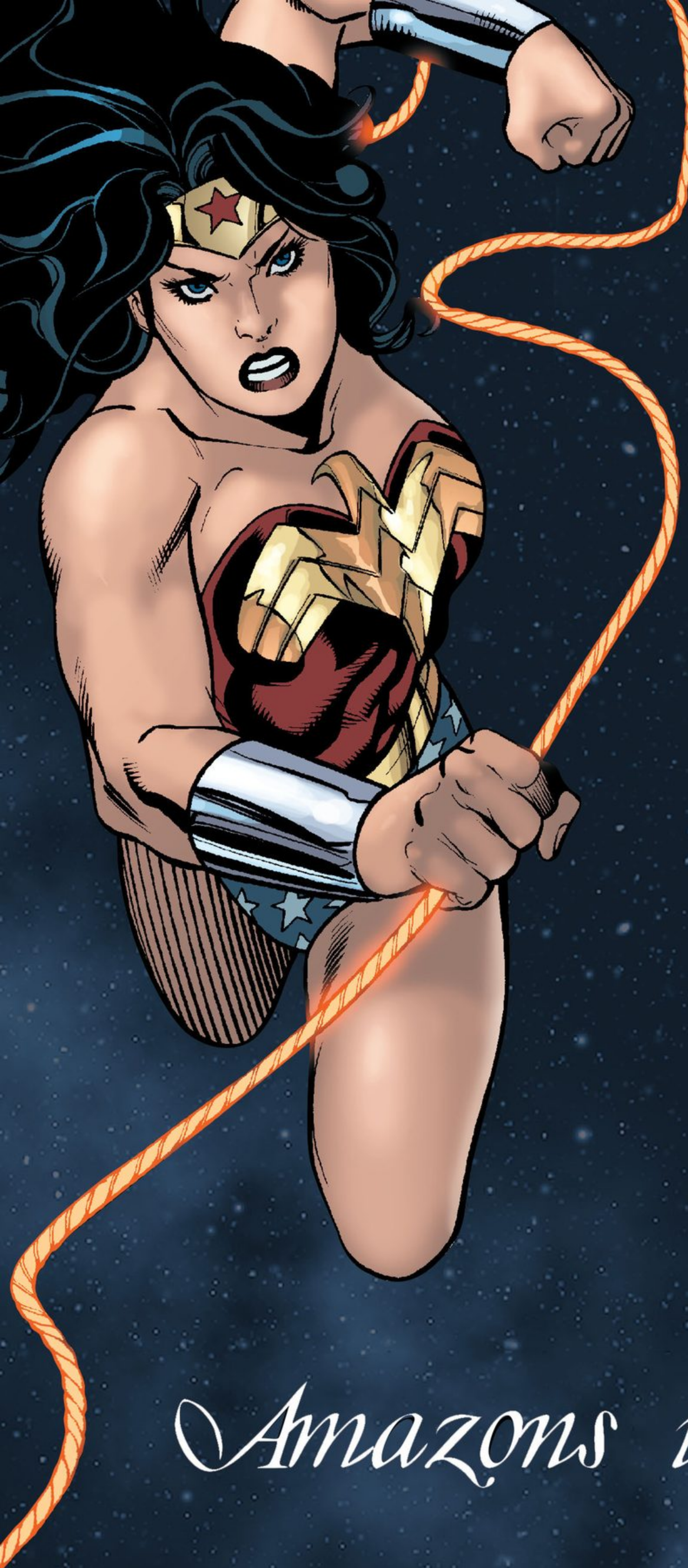
IT'S NOT GOODBYE. WE FOUGHT AND WON.

WE WILL NEVER TRULY BE APART.

I AM DIANA, PRINCESS OF THE AMAZONS.

AND THIS IS THE LIFE I AM BLESSED TO HAVE LED.





Headed toward Earth is an armada unlike any ever seen. Composed of savage female warriors from a host of alien races, this army has run roughshod over even the mighty Green Lantern Corps! They are led by a ruthless queen with a secret: she's an Amazon in exile, and she bears a deep, personal grudge against the Amazon Princess Diana!

Before this onslaught reaches Earth, the nation's capital is shaken by a riot of mysterious origins. At the center of the disaster stand five small mysterious hellions, the Crows, who will do anything to destroy Diana's loved ones. And they have a defender of their own: Power Girl!

As the two mightiest women in the universe square off, the "space Amazons" arrive! Can the combined forces of both Earth and Paradise Island repel this horrific horde?

Writer Gail Simone (**BIRDS OF PREY**) concludes her critically acclaimed run, with art by Aaron Lopresti (**JUSTICE LEAGUE: GENERATION LOST**), Nicola Scott (**SECRET SIX**), Fernando Dagnino and Travis Moore. dccomics.com

Amazons in Space!

SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN...
THIS MONSTER!"

